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A N D

P R E S E N T S T A T E O F I R E L A N D .

OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

MANUFACTURES,

TRADE,

AND

PRESENT STATE

OF

IRELAND.

By JOHN LORD SHEFFIELD.

———Non Hostem, inimicaque Castra,
Argivûm, vestras Spes Uritis———

PART THE FIRST.

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MDCC LXXV.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE following Observations consist principally of materials, which were intended to be employed in another work. Such reputation as might have been acquired by attention to style, ornament, and arrangement, is sacrificed for the sake of stating, while it is not too late, to the People of Great Britain, as well as to those of Ireland, some facts, very interesting to them, and the knowledge of which possibly may be of service with respect to the questions that are immediately to come before the Legislature.

As it is the management of these times to conceal from the Public the measures that are intended, and as Ministers are satisfied with carrying certain questions through Parliament without troubling themselves about farther considerations, the Author can only reason on the general notoriety of those measures; and he shall be happy if at least part of that, to which it is said the Government of the two kingdoms is pledged, may not prove true. A wish to serve both countries could alone have induced him to undertake as disagreeable a task as has ever fallen to his lot; and when he adds, that he is sensible how much of what he states is likely, till well understood, to be displeasing to many in both countries, and unlikely to suit their prejudices, he, on those accounts, hopes he may claim some sort of merit. The Manufacturers of Britain will not be satisfied

satisfied with all his doctrines; but in this he must acquiesce for the present, as the experience of mankind tells us, that he who does not go every length with those who are interested in a question, unavoidably risks their good opinion.

In respect to Ireland, it is painful to him in an extreme degree, to seem even to the most prejudiced and unreasonable, to take a part against her in the proposed arrangement with Britain, although it be only in the single point relative to the alteration of the Navigation Act; (for he cannot consider Protecting Duties as the wish of that country at large;) but he is convinced that the generality of the People of Ireland are not aware of the whole extent of what has been desired on that head. He thinks them more reasonable than to form such a wish, and is

sure that when the consequences of the proposed alteration are laid before them, that generosity of character, for which they are distinguished, must prevent their continuing to ask it; and it is only by stating the case of Britain strongly, that they are likely to see how unreasonable their claim is. If he were even to consider the matter merely as an Irishman, who only cared for one part of the empire, without the least regard for the good and advantage of the whole, he would not wish the measure to take place; because, if Britain should be surprised into it, and the alteration which is desired should ignorantly and inconsiderately be made, he knows she must reclaim the concession she had made. He most ardently wishes that such a mortification may be spared to Ireland, and that the consequences which would result from it, may be prevented; and it is from this wish

wish he is induced to take a part in the question. If merely from the fear of risking the unfavourable opinion of the People of that Country, he should withhold the information which is in his power, or decline to state matters which they ought to know, he should feel himself unworthy to belong to them; and he should think it dishonest, in the highest degree, to enter on the subject, without the resolution to treat it with the utmost impartiality. If he had prejudices, they would probably be in favour of Ireland; and perhaps their foundation might be traced to the indignation he has formerly felt on the treatment of that country. He is, however, equally interested in the welfare of both countries; and if he could suspect himself of partiality to either of them, he most assuredly would have avoided the subject. His situation in respect to both, may and
ought

ought to prevent his being prejudiced; at least it is such as have served to give him some knowledge of the interests of each. He can have no motive for taking part against either: his desire was to represent the real state of Ireland, as far as he could; to prevent mischievous, idle, or unavailing clamour, and to counteract the designs of those whose object is to mislead and dupe the people.

It will give him great satisfaction, if now, or in future, these Observations should lead to cool and dispassionate examination, and in the end, to the mutual advantage of Great Britain and Ireland. He has stated many facts; he has freely observed upon those facts; and he hopes what he has remarked will give rise to reflections more useful and important.

The

The Tables will give a more correct idea of the state of Manufactures and Trade than could have been formed without them. A greater detail relative to parts of the Fisheries, to particular Manufactures, and to the trade to some countries, which, however, may not at present be of much consequence, should have been given, if there had been more time ; but it being declared, that the very business, which is the principal object of these Observations, is immediately to be discussed, the information herein contained, such as it is, if delayed, would have come too late. If there had been leisure for the purpose, the author would have informed himself more fully on some other points, and the whole of what he now offers, might have appeared in a more finished state.

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The author takes his leave, by wishing his exertions, in favour of the great points which were the objects of the Navigation Laws, may not be confounded with narrow restrictions relative to Manufactures and Commerce in general. He is rather disposed to discountenance and dissuade all restraints, except those which are necessary to support the British Marine, to make Britain the mart of commerce, and to secure to her Dominions the only return she can reap for the great expence of her foreign settlements, namely, the monopoly of their supply.

SHEFFIELD PLACE,
Jan. 25, 1785.

· O B S E R -

OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

MANUFACTURES, TRADE,

AND

PRESENT STATE OF IRELAND.

THE extensions given in the course of the last six years to the trade and commerce of Ireland, are so recent in the recollection of both kingdoms, that it would be superfluous to state them in detail, notwithstanding that they form the ground work of the following Observations. It would be equally superfluous to record, as the sequel of that detail, the expressions used by a warm-hearted people, in the first flow of their sentiments, under a change of circumstances, most auspicious,

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cious, it may be hoped, not only to them, but to the prosperity of the whole British empire, of which they form a considerable part. Ireland had been placed by the hand of Providence in an advanced situation between the two Continents, with excellent harbours towards the prevailing winds, and with the blessing of a fertile soil, and temperate climate; but she had nevertheless long laboured in an inefficient and helpless poverty, under a system of restraints equally pernicious, unwise, and unjust.—It is natural, that the minds of her people should be elated on the emancipation of their industry and activity; and perhaps a considerable period must elapse, before they settle sufficiently, either to ascertain the intrinsic value of their late acquisitions, or to adopt the means of applying those acquisitions to the best effect: the best habits of exertion are not suddenly to be expected, though they may gradually be formed by the natural progression of a free commerce, and the fostering attention of a wise and settled government.

From such attainments alone can result that increase of stock and capital, which
will

will be essentially necessary, before Ireland can avail herself of half her advantages. In the mean time, many of her people seem disposed rather to seek farther speculative and theoretical claims, than to cultivate the solid benefits which they actually possess; whilst others are risking and prejudicing the principal staple of their country, by forcing its weak capital into too many and new branches. These unsteady and extravagant attempts have a tendency not only to check trade, but to provoke retaliation.

It is now well known among commercial nations, that manufactures, forced, and supported by bounties and prohibitions, cannot long thrive, and are not only a loss to the community, in proportion to their expence, but are farther pernicious, by tempting away hands from the thriving manufactures. By aiming at too many things at once, Ireland will succeed in none; but by pursuing certain staple articles that best suit her, she may bring them to that perfection which will command the markets. A country, of the extent of Ireland, cannot expect to prevail in every manufacture; she may trifle in many,

but she can excel at foreign markets in few ; and those, under proper management, may be amply sufficient to give both employment and affluence to her people.—It is the abundance of a manufacture, and the general establishment of it in a country, that makes it both cheap and good.

The Irish have been represented as being lazy, and not disposed to labour : they are, however, of an active nature, and capable of the greatest exertions ; and of as good a disposition as any nation, in the same state of improvement : their Generosity, Hospitality, and Bravery, are proverbial : intelligence and zeal in whatever they undertake will not be wanting : but it has been the fashion to judge of them from their outcasts. The Highlanders of Scotland, in their state of nature, are also said to be indolent. That men who have very little to do, should appear to do little, is not strange ; but who thinks them indolent, when brought into situations where they can act ? The Highlanders, indeed, have still less reason for indolence than the Irish ; the country of the former with difficulty

culty can subsist them, while the plentiful soil of Ireland encourages idleness.—Perhaps the cheapness of the common food, potatoes, may be justly deemed a cause of idleness, and consequently detrimental to manufactures; a small garden of potatoes will subsist a family. Few countries have become completely industrious, till the price of provisions was comparatively high. In how many towns, even of England, where the manufacturers can acquire a subsistence, without daily labour, do numbers of them consume the Monday and Tuesday in idleness? The common people of Ireland have not had the encouragement they might have had, if an unfortunate difference of religion had not prevailed, and if it had not been thought a necessary policy, not to bring forward the mass of the people who differed from the reformed church, but more especially because their principles were supposed to be hostile not only to the established religion, but to the established government. Lately, the severe laws against Roman Catholics have been repealed, and many unnecessary restraints removed; Restraints which had shamefully lasted too long, and can only be accounted for by the
acrimony

acrimony of the times in which they were imposed. At present, perhaps, the improvement of Ireland is as rapid as any country ever experienced, nor will any thing check it, but the weakness of human nature, an ill-founded dissatisfaction, and an extravagant disposition to innovation and change.

Jealousies in trade between England, Scotland, and Ireland will ever occur. Such jealousies in some respects stimulate useful competition, and in the end improve manufactures, and promote trade. In the fermentation and progress of such jealousies, appeals will frequently be made to the Legislature, and the interference of the Legislature, when obtained, will generally prove mischievous to the great interests of commerce, without giving satisfaction to any of the contending parties. In such instances, however, much good may be done by wise and diligent Ministers, who think it their duty to watch, to inquire, and fully to inform themselves. Prejudices may be removed, mistakes may be exposed, and sometimes useful regulations may be introduced. This remark has been suggested by the present circumstances of
Ireland :

Ireland: it has been already hinted, that she aims at more than her capital can possibly support, or in which she can possibly succeed: some of her people have been ignorantly eager in professing an unfriendly disposition to British manufactures, and perhaps persuade themselves, that under the term "Protecting Duties*," they can conceal their real meaning — the introduction of a plan of prohibitory duties. Happily, a considerable proportion of the country thinks differently; and her Parliament, after a full investigation, rejected the measure, by a great majority. Yet, many still retain the disposition to occupy themselves, and disturb others, with attempts to introduce the mischievous system. A war of protecting duties and bounties, would answer to neither country; it would be extremely prejudicial to both; it would be ruinous to Ireland. The duty proposed would be prohibitory. If Ireland prohibits the staple manufacture of Great Britain, measures of a similar tendency would inevitably

* The duties proposed were so high as to be prohibitory of British, and therefore protecting Irish woollens.
and

8 PROTECTING DUTIES.

and soon take place, respecting the staple manufacture of Ireland. Even by doing much less, the great article of trade, on which Ireland depends, her linen manufacture, would be ruined; merely the placing Irish linens on the same footing as foreign, would almost entirely prevent the use of them in England, and be ten times more prejudicial to Ireland, than her prohibition of English woollens would be to Great Britain. Measures, too, might be pursued in that line, which would forward and assist the interests of Great Britain, in the north of Europe.

But while prohibitory duties might bring real evils on Ireland, they would fail of answering the end intended: they encourage contraband trade; and no laws could prevent the smuggling of British manufactures into Ireland: the near neighbourhood and great intercourse give a facility, which could not be obviated; nor could non-importation agreements last long. Ireland would soon be tired of the impositions of her own manufacturers, who would immediately avail themselves of the opportunity, and who have raised the clamour for the purpose of exacting

exacting an additional profit from the consumer; she would soon find she cannot supply herself, and that efforts which may fall heavily on her in other respects, will serve her in no respect, but would greatly raise the price to her people of that essentially necessary article, cloathing.

Those who examine with a jealous eye the advantages resulting to Great Britain from her supplying Ireland with certain articles, should observe the prodigious quantity of linen with which Ireland supplies Great Britain; the value of which, in the year ending the 25th of March, 1782, exceeded all the imports into Ireland of the growth, produce, and manufacture of Great Britain: it amounted to 24,692,072 yards, value 1,646,138l. 2s. 8d. Irish money *; besides

* See the table No. I. The author inadvertently took the year of the greatest export, but the average of four years, ending the 25th of March, 1778, and previous to the exports of Ireland being hurt by her non-importation agreements, (which they were) was in value 1,455,990l. 7s. 5½d. In consequence of those agreements, and other circumstances, the value of linen ex-

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fides linen yarn, to the amount of 169,126l. 10s. In the same year, all the imports into Ireland, of the produce and manufacture of Great Britain, amounted to 1,486,317l. 2s. 4d.; of which the quantity and value of woollens was as follows, and it happened to be the year of the greatest import :

	Yards.		£.	s.	d.
Old drapery, -	362,824	- Value	253,976	0	0
New drapery, -	547,336	- ———	68,417	0	0
			<hr/>		
			322,393	0	0
			<hr/>		

And it is farther worthy of notice, that, in the same year, when Ireland exported

	Yards.		£.	s.	d.
To Britain - -	24,692,072	Value	1,646,138	2	8
She exported to all the rest of the world only - -	278,231	———	18,548	14	8
And coloured linens	113,655 $\frac{1}{4}$	———	5,984	9	9
			<hr/>		
Total export -	25,083,958 $\frac{1}{4}$				
			<hr/>		

ports fell, in 1781, to 961,455l. The next year, 1782, however, as usually happens on such occasions, it increased, and to the great amount above mentioned.

Moreover

Moreover it may be observed, that Ireland does not grow a sufficiency of wool of a proper sort, if she should manufacture the whole of it, to supply her own consumption of woollens; and that she could not get the same articles cheaper from any other country than from Great Britain. At the same time, a great proportion of the linens which Great Britain takes from Ireland might be got cheaper from the north of Europe: and Ireland should remember, that, of all her exports in the same year, viz. 1782, Britain alone took 2,699,825*l.* 13*s.* 8½*d.* How trifling, comparatively, the remainder of her exports, will appear under the head of her general trade.

The year 1783 was not exactly the period when we should have expected the woollen manufacturers of Ireland to be most clamorous, and that they should enter upon the most violent measures. Unprejudiced people, at least, will think that the complaints were ill timed; and the following account of the exports of woollens * will prove it. It

* Exclusive of frize, flannels, stockings, and mixtures of woollens, and hats.

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should be remarked, that the export was allowed only during a small part of the year 1780.

Old drapery exported from Ireland, year ending the 25th of March,

		Yards.
1780	—	494
1781	—	3,740
1782	—	4,633
1783	—	40,589

New drapery exported from Ireland, year ending the 25th of March,

		Yards.
1780	—	8,653
1781	—	286,859
1782	—	336,607
1783	—	538,061

And as a farther proof of the increase of the woollen manufacture in Ireland, it appears that the export of wool, woollen, and worsted yarn had decreased above half. The average export of the last, which is the principal article, for seven years, ending the 25th of March, 1770, was 142,890 stones. The average of the same number
of

of years, ending the 25th of March, 1783, was 66,679 stones.

It should be remarked, that at the time Ireland, on the opening of her ports for exportation of woollens, made an effort to send the above quantity to foreign markets, she increased her imports of woollens. This helps to shew an advantage in taking away that unreasonable restraint, and should convince us, that the more Ireland exports, the greater her necessity will be of importing from England. Ireland was enabled to work up her wool in those articles which best suited it, and to the greatest advantage, for foreign markets, instead of employing it to disadvantage, and increased the importation of such woollen articles as England could furnish cheaper than she could make them.

On an average of four years, from 1763 to 1767, Ireland imported,

	Yards.
New drapery, -	281,557
Old drapery, -	196,047

On

14 PROTECTING DUTIES.

On an average of four years, ending the 25th of March, 1783, Ireland imported,

Yards.

New drapery, - 390,095

Old drapery, - 281,406

But the increase of the importation of the principal article, new drapery, was only about one-fifth of the increased manufacture for exportation.

Yards.

Increased quantity of new drapery

imported, - - - 108,538

New drapery exported, year ending

the 25th of March, 1783, - 538,061

And the export of the latter article, the same year, exceeded the import near 120,000 yards. And farther it should be remarked, that, in the very year when so large a quantity of Irish woollens were able to meet British at foreign market, a duty was asked on British to enable Irish woollens to meet them at the markets of Ireland.

It should be observed, however, that the manufacture of woollens was not so much increased as appears from the stated export of the four last years: a certain proportion
of

of those articles, which now appear in the exports, were smuggled from Ireland previous to 1778, at which time the prohibition to export was taken off with respect to the British plantations in America, or the West Indies, or any British settlement on the coast of Africa. Before that time, woollens could not be mentioned in the Custom-house state of the exports of Ireland; but now that the export is opened to all the world, by the acts of 1780 and 1781, it is found that two-thirds of her woollens go to Portugal, to which place she probably sent nearly as much before. The importation, however, of most of those articles into Portugal, both then and now, was, and is, supposed to be prohibited by Portugal: and it should farther be remarked, that as woollens are not subject to duties on export, the vanity, and other motives of merchants may have induced them to enter greater quantities for exportation than they have really sent.

But some of the violent *friends* of Ireland say, we will have non-importation agreements, protecting duties, prohibitions, &c.

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If you don't take our linens, we will not only refuse British, but also foreign and colonial commodities from Great Britain, and the two last amount to near 800,000*l.* yearly *.

It will be answered, that Great Britain gives to the principal manufacture of Ireland every advantage in every part of her dominions, and may most reasonably expect that her own principal manufacture should, in return, have equal advantages in Ireland, which they have not. The linens Great Britain takes from Ireland are five times the value of

* Some of these pretended friends of Ireland, who, whether actuated by an honest and zealous ignorance, or by worse motives, are likely to prove her greatest enemies, have been driven, by the absurdity of their pretension, into the most contradictory mode of reasoning: for, on some occasions, they treat as a separate kingdom, not only independent, but utterly unconnected; on others, they claim as a part of the empire, entitled (according to an inauspicious phrase) to a reciprocity of equal rights. For the sake of fairness in argument, it is to be wished they would chuse one predicament or the other. The attempt to blend both characters, is not calculated to promote either candour or perspicuity.

the

the woollens taken from Britain. Ireland takes nothing from her that she can get cheaper or better elsewhere, except the commodities of the British West Indies ; and in return, she has an advantage in her share of the monopoly of the West India markets, and she has no pretension to trade with the plantations on any other principle. Whatever else she takes of colonial or foreign articles, is for her own convenience ; and before Ireland cuts off all commercial intercourse with Great Britain, it may be worth her while to consider the proportion of the exports of Ireland taken by Great Britain, as already mentioned : it will appear that her exports to all other parts did not, in the same year, much exceed, in value, the twentieth part of her exports to Britain, and in that part are included the exports to the British plantations, which would be found no small part, but which would be also lost, as such proceedings on the part of Ireland, would naturally tend to interrupt all commercial intercourse with the British colonies and empire. Great Britain has found it possible to exist, and to maintain, her commercial affluence against the combinations and inter-

ruptions of many principal markets in both Continents; but Ireland has not yet made the experiment, how she could exist without the markets of the British dominions: and when Ireland shall be so madly advised, neither fleets nor armies, nor any extraordinary expence, will be necessary, on the part of Great Britain, to convince her she is wrong: hurtful it may be for a time; but in the end, and soon, Great Britain must prevail: Ireland cannot: for it does not appear where she will get what she wants, and that she has credit with other nations to the amount she would require; or where she will dispose of what she has, if she should have no intercourse with Great Britain or the British colonies. It will be found, that it is the intercourse with the British dominions that enables Ireland to trade in any considerable degree.

This hostile mode of argument is, however, very improperly brought on by Ireland. It would ill become either kingdom to encourage even the discussion of such propositions; and the seat of empire could never adopt the measures hinted at, unless
unavoidably

unavoidably driven to them. Under the present enlarged and free system of commerce, there is demand and trade enough in the world to occupy the utmost industry of both countries. This kind of scrutiny then, should not take place; but if Ireland will force it forwards, the investigation will not prove either beneficial or flattering to her. She might at least be satisfied until she finds herself in the situation of being able to say to Britain, My ports shall be open to all your manufactures, free of all duties, on condition that your ports shall be open to mine in the like manner.—Ireland is hardly in the situation to agree to that proposal; and the generality of Englishmen would probably at first object: but there is nothing in it which should alarm them. Great Britain could undersell Ireland in most manufactures: such is the predominancy of superior skill, industry, and capital, over low-priced labour, and comparatively very few taxes.—Many would object to the extension of this idea to raw materials, as well as to manufactures; but even the permitting English wool and fullers' earth, charged with inland carriage, freight, com-

million, &c. to go to Ireland, need not alarm, on the ground of giving a superiority to the latter *. Let it be remembered, that England undersells other countries even in the manufacture of Spanish wool. The wool grower in England, who submits the monopoly of his wool to the manufacturers

* The English woollen manufacturers will say, the export of wool from England to Ireland must greatly reduce the price of wool in the latter country, and, with the low price of labour, enable the Irish manufacturers to undersell them, and of course will urge the same objections as they do, to the export of wool to France. On the other hand, the wool growers of Ireland will oppose the reduction of the price, which is from 3s. to 4s. per stone higher than in England: and it is said, until mutton becomes a more common food in Ireland, and the price consequently rises, it would not answer to keep up the present number of sheep, if not encouraged by the high price of wool. The increase of tillage in that country, it is supposed, will naturally decrease the number of sheep, unless, by a mode of agriculture superior to the present, and a more general introduction of artificial grasses, turneps, &c. she should be enabled to keep a greater stock. Yet the following account of the great fair of Ballinasloe, in Connaught, seems to prove that the number of sheep was increasing in Ireland. Tillage, however, has made, comparatively, very little progress in that part of the kingdom.

ABSTRACT

PROTECTING DUTIES. 21

turers, might receive some relief. This, however, is a nice point, and does not require any discussion at present.

ABSTRACT of WOOL fold at the different Fairs of Bal-
linasloe, from July, 1771, to July, 1778, inclusive.

Date	No. of Bags fold.	No. of do. unfold.	Total.
1771, July, —	1492	15	1507
1772, —, —	1286	11	1297
1773, —, —	1550	33	1583
1774, —, —	1623	25	1648
1775, —, —	1574	61	1635
1776, —, —	1857	64	1921
1777, —, —	2004	70	2074
1778, —, —	1359	553	1912
Total No.	12745	832	13577
Yearly average	1593	104	1697

N. B. The failure in 1778 arose from the stagnation of credit, and a decrease of the demand for bay yarn from England.

SHEEP fold at the said Fair.

Date	fold.	unfold.	Total.
1771, Oct. —	51950	—	51950
1772, —, —	53632	50	53682
1773, —, —	55242	6390	61682
1774, —, —	60796	5302	66633
1775, —, —	63904	1020	64924
1776, —, —	66873	639	67512
1777, —, —	63792	12743	76535
1778, —, —	44894	31588	76482

EQUAL

E Q U A L D U T I E S.

Instead of protecting or prohibitory duties, which would not answer the purpose of the promoters of them ; or an entire removal of all duties between the two countries, for which, it has been already observed, Ireland is not yet ripe ; perhaps to lower the British inoperative duties to the Irish, would be the least exceptionable measure : it would leave the trade nearly on its present footing ; and it is the interest of the British manufacturers that the duties should be equalized, rather by lowering them here, than by raising them in Ireland.

To this many of the English woollen manufacturers would object : but if Great Britain should take off the heavy duties on the importation of Irish woollens into Britain, it would not be of the advantage to Ireland that she imagines, nor a material check to the British manufacturers of wool. On the part of England and Scotland, it may be worth while to consider, that lowering high duties to the scale of the Irish, while it will take away the arguments, and may suppress

ſuppreſs the clamours of the diſcontented in Ireland, cannot hurt their own manufactures. The heavy duties on the importation of Iriſh manufactures into Great Britain are prohibitory: they are in general unneceſſary; and only ſerve to irritate and keep alive prejudice and falſe notions. For while Great Britain can underſel Ireland, even in the home markets of the latter, in almoſt every manufacture, charged with land carriage in Britain, freight, duties on landing, and commiſſion; and notwithſtanding the bounties given by the Dublin Society, or Parliament; Ireland ſurely could not ſell any quantity of manufactures at Britiſh markets, or much more to foreign countries, than ſhe does now. She may, indeed, be able to export, in the courſe of trade, and to aſſort in cargoes, to a certain extent, ſome articles which ſhe cannot make cheaper than England, but not in quantities to prejudice the latter. Perhaps, one of the ſtrongeſt objections at preſent to opening the Britiſh markets to the Iriſh manufactures, is the danger of ſmuggling cargoes from the Continent of Europe.

Ireland, it is ſaid, can afford ſome broad ſtuffs, durants, ſhalloons, and ſhags, cheaper
than

than Great Britain : her flannels are as good, if not the best : her blankets are as cheap : and in hair plush and druggets, she can rival France : but if it be true, she has not a sufficiency of wool to carry those manufactures to any great extent. The very price of that article, which is generally 3s. or 4s. at least per stone of 16 pounds higher than in England, as already mentioned, must prevent her ; for it was the low price of labour alone which enabled Ireland to send woollen or worsted yarn to Britain *.

It is, therefore, really the superior quality and cheapness of British manufacture, that prevents import from Ireland. Mr. Arthur Young has inquired, why give in linen what you deny in other fabrics ? Irish linen has all the advantages of a freedom from a great variety of excises, which the manufacturers of English linen labour under, and yet the English manufacture, so burthened, thrives, from there being a difference in the fabrics, and as great a difference would be in other fabrics. The fixed trade, capital,

* It appears from the Table, No. I. that the quantity of wool she sent was trifling.

and skill of England, at present at least, bid defiance to the no excises of Ireland. If Ireland cannot meet English manufactures in her own markets, notwithstanding her advantages at home, how can she meet England to any great extent at foreign markets, without those advantages. New fabrics require new capitals, new establishments, and new exertions.

Taking the year of the greatest export of woollens from Ireland, viz. 1783, we find, the quantity of wool, woollen, and worsted yarn exported, greatly decreased, and that the whole quantity of wool exported, was - - 2063 stones, 10lbs. and the whole quantity

of woollen yarn, - 440 stones.

worsted yarn, - 66677 stones.

It is clear, that even if these quantities had been of the sort of wool fit for making the woollens that Ireland imports, it would not have been sufficient; for, in the same year she imported near 800,000 yards, viz.

Yards.

New drapery, - 420,415 $\frac{1}{2}$

Old drapery, - 371,871

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and

and until Ireland becomes a country of shepherds, and prefers sheep-walks to tillage, and depopulation to population, she cannot import much less. She has grown rich, and more populous; her demand for woollens has increased, and is likely to increase much more: Great Britain, therefore, has little to apprehend; but the consumer in Ireland must pay whatever additional expence is thrown on woollens imported; he must pay the extraordinary expence of smuggling, or whatever duty may be laid.

Equal duties must be low; if high, they would be protecting or prohibitory duties against England. It is obvious, that whatever they are, they must fall on the consumer in Ireland, who must have these articles in some shape.

As to the system of no duties in either country, if that should be proposed, Ireland will dread the extinction of some of her present manufactures of woollen. She will recollect the effect of the Methuen treaty with Portugal, by which British woollens were introduced, and the Portuguese manu-
factures

factures of wool, which had been established above twenty years before, were crushed; for although that treaty, on the face of it, appears simple, and the principles of it not reciprocal*, its object was as now stated; it was understood so at the time, and it succeeded. The conduct, however, of Portugal was not impolitic. It was not possible for her to carry her woollen manufacture to any great extent, or nearly to supply her people and colonies. She got a great advantage, as to her wines, by the treaty; and her people were supplied cheaper with the necessary article, woollens.

Ireland, perhaps had better be content to remain as she is: her duties on her imports, which are 5 per cent. on the custom rate, and 5 per cent. more on the rate for import excise, give advantage to her own manufactures. Her import duties consist of customs payable like the British, and also of an

* British woollens were not to be admitted on better terms than those of other countries, although the wines of Portugal were to pay in England lower duties than any other wines.

excise, called import excise, which is bondable until the goods are taken out for consumption, when it is to be paid, and has therefore got the name of excise. Draperies, however, from Britain, do not pay the import excise, only the custom.

The manufactures of wool certainly have increased, and are increasing; under their present circumstances; and a sufficient quantity is manufactured, to shew that extraordinary measures are not necessary. The clamour on this subject has been nearly confined to Dublin, the most improper place for the manufacture, and where it is much to be wished it may not flourish; where a disposition has appeared rather to riot and insult the Legislature, than to cultivate, with industry, the benefits of an enlarged and free commerce. The seat of expence and licentiousness is not a fit place for the principal branch of the woollen manufacture, or for any other, except slight fabrics, which depend upon changable fashion, and must be under the eye of the shopkeeper.

A good

A good deal has been already said, relative to woollens, which applies to the general requisition from Ireland, that the manufactures of both countries shall be liable to equal duties, on import into each other. The British duties, when compared with the Irish, will not, by any means, give to an indifferent person the impresson of fairness and equality, or even of utility; they have, however, in truth, little or no effect, except to cause uneasiness, to irritate, and seemingly to justify the idea of protecting duties. Whilst similar British commodities command the markets of Ireland, from their superior quality and cheapness, though charged with the Irish duties, what chance of sale have the same articles of Irish manufacture at British markets, even without a duty? An alteration, therefore, would benefit Ireland, or prejudice Britain, much less than is imagined. This argument, perhaps, it will be said, may answer for the year 1785, but may not apply to the probable future state of manufactures in Ireland, in 1800—that the progress of manufactures in the two countries, one of which pays taxes, to the amount of fourteen millions, and the other
of

of one million only, little or no part of which can be said to fall on manufactures, is not likely to keep an equal pace. To which it may be replied, that the price of labour, and expences of all kinds, will undoubtedly increase with the increase of manufactures in Ireland; that one million of taxes is less disproportionate to the wealth of that country, than may appear to those who have not examined their comparative riches, and that if Great Britain makes no improper sacrifices, she will maintain her present superiority. It merits, therefore, the consideration of the British manufacturers, whether the sale of their goods will not be much more hurt by the dissatisfaction of Ireland, and non-importation agreements, (although the latter will not be effectual or lasting) than by a reduction of the duties on the import of Irish manufactures. The duty on woollens, imported into Britain from Ireland, amount to a prohibition. At the same time Ireland has laid duties equal to a prohibition in favour of England, on draperies from all other countries; they are also in favour of her own woollen manufacture.

EQUAL DUTIES.

31

SCHEDULE of DUTIES on the under-men- tioned Articles in both Countries.

Import Duties payable in Britain.				Import Duties payable in Ireland.		
£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
2	0	6 $\frac{4}{20}$	{ All woollens or old drapery, per yard, — — — }	0	0	5 $\frac{10}{20}$
0	5	11 $\frac{10}{20}$	{ Stuffs of all kinds, made or mixed with wool, or new drapery, per yard, — — }	0	0	11 $\frac{10}{20}$
29	15	10	{ Cotton and linen manufactures, and cotton mixed, for every 100l. value, on oath, — }	9	18	5 $\frac{8}{20}$
65	10	10	{ Linen cloth, printed, for every 100l. value, on oath, — }	9	18	5 $\frac{8}{20}$
65	10	10	{ Leather manufactures, for every 100l. value, on oath, — }	9	18	5 $\frac{8}{20}$
0	3	11 $\frac{13}{20}$	{ Checks, the piece not above 10 yards, besides in Britain, for every 100l. value, on oath, }	0	1	3 $\frac{17}{20}$
5	6	9 $\frac{10}{20}$	Sugar, refined, per cwt. — —	1	13	11 $\frac{15}{20}$
4	12	1 $\frac{7}{20}$	Starch, per cwt. — —	0	6	5 $\frac{12}{20}$

Many other instances might be added, not
less remarkable : and Ireland does not a lit-
tle complain of want of reciprocity on the
subjects of malt, beer, &c.

Average

Average of three years, ending Christmas 1777, of the duties arising on all goods and merchandize exported from England into Ireland :

		£.	s.	d.
British goods,	-	9136	16	8 $\frac{1}{4}$
Foreign goods,	-	719	18	5 $\frac{1}{4}$

Average of the same years of the duties arising on all goods, &c. imported from Ireland into England, - £. 6490 11 1 $\frac{1}{2}$

Average of three years, ending the 5th of January, 1778, of the duties arising on all goods, &c. exported from Scotland into Ireland, - - - £. 602 0 7 $\frac{1}{4}$

Average of the same years of the duties arising on all goods, &c. imported from Ireland into Scotland, - £. 585 13 1
It may be observed, that the larger sum is received in that country, where the markets in general are open to the other upon low duties, and that the balance of the general interchange is in favour of Ireland.

BOUNTIES.

B O U N T I E S.

As to bounties, Ireland complains of that given by Great Britain on the export of sail cloth to Ireland; she finds it extremely hurtful to her fabric, and complains with double force, as it is a branch of her linen manufacture. She will be justifiable in counteracting, by duties or regulations, all bounties given on export to Ireland, where she has similar manufactures: but the British act adds to the bounty now given, as much more as at any time Ireland shall impose as a duty on the import of British sail cloth into Ireland. The mode of contest may become ridiculous.

D R A W B A C K S.

As to drawbacks, it is desired that Great Britain shall allow a full drawback on all commodities she exports to Ireland, on the principle, that the country which consumes the article, should have the use of the revenue raised upon it. Refined sugar and hops are

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put

put on that footing. It is not unreasonable, and it is encouraging to trade. It should always be remembered, that whatever part of a duty is not drawn back, is a tax on the carrying trade.

NAVIGATION ACT,

Colonial and Foreign COMMODITIES, &c.

Exclusive of the several difficulties respecting the interchange of native commodities and manufactures, new pretensions are brought forward, relative to the commerce resulting from the intercourse, which has been opened to Ireland, with the British Colonies, Plantations, and Settlements, and also relative to the interchange of Asiatic, African, and American produce. Ireland desires that the construction of the navigation laws may be altered, so as to admit Colonial and foreign commodities from her warehouses into Great Britain, in like manner as they pass from thence into Ireland.

The

The objections to this, on the part of the people of Great Britain, are numerous and strong. It is said, that the advantage in question is the only one she has reserved to herself, as head of the empire, for the vast expence of supporting foreign connections, establishing, maintaining, and protecting colonies, which alone belong to her; that when she gave the participation of all other advantages, she reserved this alone; which if she yields, there are few other points in which the navigation laws will be of service to her, relatively to Ireland. It is the only commercial part of them that is of consequence; it is the single privilege, which leaves any gleam of hope to Great Britain, that she shall weather the consequences of the war, to which Ireland contributes nothing. In fact, the very operation in question of the navigation laws, is the only barrier remaining against the migration of her manufacturers and merchants. The preamble of her navigation and other laws, give the reasons, for confining Colonial and foreign trade, viz. "Not only for the sake of employing and increasing English shipping and seamen, and securing a vent for woollen and other

“ manufactures; but also to make this king-
 “ dom a staple of the commodities of those
 “ plantations, as well as of the commodities
 “ of other countries for the supplying them;
 “ (it being the usage of other nations to
 “ keep their plantation trade to themselves)
 “ and farther, if Colonial commodities
 “ should be taken from any part but the
 “ plantations, that the trade of them would
 “ thereby in a great measure be diverted
 “ from hence, and carried elsewhere; His
 “ Majesty’s customs and other revenues
 “ much lessened, the fair trader prejudiced,
 “ and this kingdom not continue a staple
 “ of plantation commodities, nor that vent
 “ for the future of the victual and other
 “ native commodities of this kingdom.”—
 Such was the declared principle of the navi-
 gation act *, and such certainly was the prin-
 ciple of those acts † which passed explana-
 tory of it; and the act which repeals so much
 of the navigation laws, as prevented a direct

* 12th Charles II.

† 15th Charles II. and the 22d and 23d Charles II.
 confirms the intention of the 15th, to prohibit impor-
 tation of, &c. from Ireland, and restrain it to Britain.
 intercourse

intercourse between Ireland and the British plantations, does not repeal the 12th Geo. III. chap. 55. * which prohibits the import from Ireland into Britain, of rum, sugar, coffee, and other American and Asiatic goods: nor can it be said, that it appears from the act, which extended the trade of Ireland, to have been the intention of the Legislature to make any alteration in that respect. The custom-house practice has continued the same since, as it was before the passing the act, and during upwards of a century, viz. not to admit the articles in question from Ireland. Nor can it be objected as inequitable, that Britain declines to take from Ireland commodities which that country takes from her. Ireland takes them from the mother country of the colonies; and, strictly considering the matter, she has no rightful claim to get them

* Although this act was passed to bind both countries, and those parts which purport to have an internal operation in the levying of forfeitures or penalties, or are directory to the officers of the Irish revenue, may now be considered as a dead letter; yet, the spirit and intention of this act is clear, and that part which was intended to bind Britain, and which prohibits importation of the produce of Asia, Africa, and America, from Ireland, is still in force.

in any other way from any colonies, except through the indulgence of the mother country of those colonies. Ireland takes little from Britain of any kind, that she can get cheaper elsewhere: she takes as it suits her, and she cannot object to Britain the price she pays for West-India commodities, or the giving the monopoly of her markets to the produce of the British plantations, as in return she has her share of the monopoly of their markets. It would be an extreme folly in Great Britain to maintain settlements at an immense expence of public money, and to confine herself to the purchase of their produce at an unreasonable price, and to the private detriment of individual consumers, and then to put it in the power of another country to purchase, with the manufactures of that country, the produce of such settlements, and to retail them afterwards in the British market. The mischiefs connected with that point alone are too obvious to be insisted on. It is farther to be observed, that trade is of so delicate a nature, that it is almost impossible to conjecture, how restraints either laid on, or taken off, will operate—that it is prudent to apprehend every evil, of
which

which there is any probability, however distant—to fear the effect of a concession, the whole extent of which it is at least difficult to foresee—and that it is unnecessary to risk the consequences of the measure in question. The maintainers of these objections will add, that Great Britain was greatly benefited by being the depot of American, Asiatic, and African produce; and she has reason to expect, that she will still be so in a very considerable degree. The mere mercantile gain is an inconsiderable object, when compared with the various advantages of the exchange of commodities; with the value and quantity of industry, which the above system of trade diffuses throughout the community; with the employment given to an incredible number of people; with the various expences incurred from the time of the arrival, until the re-exportation of the commodities, in landing, storing, assorting, re-packing, portage, re-shipping, &c.; but above all, the increase of shipping, and of seamen. The value of trade is best ascertained by the quantity of employment and maintenance given to the industrious part of the community. In short, it would be entering into a wide field,

field, to enumerate the various advantages which centered in this country, in consequence of the trade in question; besides the great object of freight, which is just as much a part of commerce as import and export. It cannot, therefore, be expected, that Great Britain should create and establish a dangerous competition for objects of such essential importance to her; and in a country, which has peculiar advantages, from situation and other circumstances, which she herself has not. It is highly proper, that Great Britain should encourage the manufactures and other trade of Ireland: but there is great difference between such conduct and changing her whole commercial and colonial system; encouraging the migration of men, capitals, and trade, with their mercantile knowledge, their steadiness of exertion, their industry, and talents for commerce, to produce an unequal competition against herself. Ireland has her advantages—let her enjoy them: Great Britain will readily adopt and promote any measure, by which she can benefit Ireland, without materially injuring herself: but she cannot reasonably be expected to embrace measures tending to divert the colonial trade, and to tear
from

from her own merchants, and from her own people, all the beneficial security of an important branch of trade, which so peculiarly belongs to her ; of which only she has made any reserve or exception ; and on which her continuing to be the staple for colonial and foreign articles depends, and also her naval strength, her population, revenue, and public credit :—She has entirely relaxed all navigation and colonial principles in favour of Ireland, except the point in question. She communicated every other advantage of import and export of colonial articles to the sister kingdom ; but wisely abstained from giving the power of importing them from Ireland into her own market. She has given to Ireland the liberty of supplying herself, and any part of the world that will admit Irish vessels, with the produce of the British colonies ; and it is surely very unreasonable that she should not be allowed the exclusive right of supplying herself with her own colonial produce. She cannot, therefore, without being regardless of her essential interests, promote still farther the export of colonial articles from Ireland, and encourage the Irish, or rather, the British

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merchants,

merchants, who would gradually remove their capitals, to speculate largely to her disadvantage : and unless Great Britain should yield the advantage in question, and thereby furnish a new and near market, it will not answer to Ireland to speculate considerably in articles for which she has not ready and certain customers. She will fear a superfluity ; and instead of being a dangerous competitor with Great Britain in the trade in question, she will not very speedily import a sufficiency even for her own demand and consumption. If Ireland could become the entrepôt, in a considerable degree, for Europe, which would naturally happen, if allowed for Great Britain, she would get possession of those articles, and those advantages, which would supply capital :—She would have the capitals and credit of other countries to surpass the mother country ; and as there would be then no difficulty in importing into this country from Ireland, whenever the market suited, the merchants of Britain would be encouraged to avail themselves of the peculiar situation of Ireland, to carry on the whole of their re-export trade through that country, and they
would

would find means of supplying three fourths, perhaps, of their cargoes from thence. They would fix houses in Ireland, transmit capitals, and by degrees, migrate thither themselves. The tobacco trade would inevitably settle in Ireland. The towns that have the re-export trade in Great Britain will loudly complain; and Glasgow, Liverpool, Bristol, &c. will foresee and feel the approaching loss of their present local and other advantages. Such are the speculations of Ireland in forming the present requisitions! Her object is to become the mart in Europe for the trade of America, for which she is so well suited by her western situation, immediately open to the ocean, and accessible almost with every wind; her vessels often crossing the Atlantic in a shorter time than the shipping of London require to clear the Channel. In addition, her ships can be victualled infinitely cheaper; and every necessary of life being low, as well as public taxes, the general charge of conducting trade will be proportionably less. In considering this matter, we should look forward to the period when Ireland shall have

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attained

attained a much more significant commercial situation than her present, and be able to trade on as good a footing to the western world as England. She would, from her situation and advantages, supply Great Britain with American produce—The gain of Ireland, by such a measure, can result only from the loss of Great Britain.

Some farther observations, perhaps, are worthy the attention of the British merchant, the colonial proprietor, and the ostensible servants of the Crown. The two first classes, as respecting themselves; the latter, as having a reference to the Public. The vast sums that are due from the Colonies to the merchants of Great Britain, surely should be considered. That this extensive credit was given on the strength of laws now subsisting, and which have hitherto been deemed as part of the colonial constitution.—That any material deviation may destroy that confidence which their immediate and exclusive connection with this country has inspired, the basis on which their credit has hitherto been built, and the

the best security to this country for the payment of their debts.

The planters, or colonial proprietors, should also be induced to reflect on the consequences of any innovation, should it appear, that, as Ireland may import many of the articles which are produced in our colonies from other countries, some of those articles may, through that medium, be clandestinely introduced into Great Britain, and thereby deprive them of the very great advantage they now derive from the exclusive supply of this country. Besides, it may be suggested, that if any regulations take place, which tend to lessen the security of the creditor, that the merchants of Britain will immediately call in their debts, and in future refuse lending such sums as they have heretofore done; which is so essential to the welfare and prosperity of the colonies, that it is the event which, of all others, they ought most to dread. So far the interest of individuals, or rather of some particular bodies of men may be affected, should the import of colonial and foreign articles be allowed into England from Ireland.

In

In the important article of Revenue, great consequences also are to be expected; which, though interesting to every person, applies more immediately to those servants of the Crown who have the direction of the public treasure, and whose duty it is to find equitable and adequate supplies for the exigencies of the State. These official servants of the public should reflect seriously on the consequences which may accrue from the enormous frauds that may be introduced by this means to the detriment of so interesting a branch of national resource, as the import duties on tobacco, wines, rum, and many other articles. Notwithstanding all the regulations and restrictions which can be devised, it may in a great measure counteract those useful and beneficial arrangements, which have lately been made for the prevention of smuggling; and which, we are told from the highest authority, have succeeded so well. Should such an alteration take place, it will hold out every encouragement for the revival of that baneful and destructive mode of traffic. As the duties on the importation of most articles are much higher in England than in Ireland, it will induce the fraudulent trader

to

to run the risque of introducing them into this country, more particularly, as the proximity of the two islands, and the number of ports constantly open to them, will afford every convenience they can wish, either as to forming depots for their goods, or the readiest means of bringing them over hither.

One other circumstance it may likewise be necessary to mention, as being more favourable to the smugglers than any thing they have ever yet experienced, namely, the security they will derive from an exemption from seizure, unless they happen to be taken in the act of landing their goods ; which is not very probable, on so wide and extensive a coast : for in that case, their vessels will be permitted, in the ports of Ireland, to clear out for Great Britain, with those articles on board ; and of course, being admissible here, they will be exempt from seizure on their whole passage, as well as on their approaching the coast, even in the Thames, protected by clearances ; and should they be so closely watched at any time as not to have an opportunity of landing their goods clandestinely,

or,

or, in the event of bad weather, being obliged to seek the shelter of some British harbour; in either of these cases they will remain secure, and can always save their vessels and cargoes by bringing them to an entry, and paying the duty on those particular goods; so that, in the event most unfavourable to them, they will be on a par with the fair trader.

The construction of the Navigation laws now contended for, is, perhaps, the only point in which the interests of the two countries seem separate and distinct; and if Ireland did not expect great benefit, she would not so strenuously urge the claim; but this given up, England could not pretend to a competition with her in time to come. The matter in question indeed seems so self evident, that no man of the least commercial knowledge, who has talents or abilities to form an accurate idea on the subject, can hesitate in declaring the measure a slow, perhaps, but certain poison, to the commerce, manufactures, and population of Great Britain. In short, it is not the business of Great Britain to encourage the migration

gration of her merchants and people to situations of greater convenience, where all the articles of trade and manufactures are so completely unburdened. England in half a century would find herself more hurt than she has been by all her debts and all her taxes.

The advantage in question, is necessary to counterbalance the advantages of Ireland, and preserve an equality with her. The burdens of the country, and, above all, the taxes on the inland and foreign commerce, sufficiently counterbalance all local advantages which arise from the habits, and the manners of Great Britain. It is essential, that the capitals and trade of the empire should not center in that part which does not contribute to the expences of it. The point in question would give to Ireland all the advantages of an union, without her taking upon her, any of the disadvantages. Ireland does not at present dispute in which of the countries the seat of empire shall be: but that question would be as reasonable, and not of more consequence than the present. The affectation of saying that

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it is a point of no consequence, but that it will quiet Ireland, can only mislead the most ignorant or the most thoughtless. We do not in general observe, that malecontents, or people dissatisfied with or without reason, are apt to be quieted by unsubstantial favours. Ireland, indeed, has not been satisfied with great concessions. But if it were in truth a point of no consequence, those who urge it, are endeavouring to deceive the people of Ireland, and to prevail upon Great Britain to be accessory to the deceit. If it were in truth an unsubstantial favour, those who state it as such will cheerfully receive the refusal of it. It should not even be admitted, that the point remains to be settled—It is settled—It is a fixed principle, the most necessary to support Britain—It is the foundation on which her prosperity depends.

Besides these general objections, Great Britain has another of no small consequence. In the American and West-India trade, the great difficulty has been, and will be, to obtain payment for merchandize. The principal mode of payment has been, and must

must be, by the produce of America and the Islands. If that produce should be admitted into this country through Ireland, much of it will go there in payment for provisions of several kinds, linen, woollens, and various articles of manufactures and clothing. By so much as Ireland shall take of that produce to re-export into this country or elsewhere, to that amount will England lose of the best, and, in some cases, only mode of payment from America and the Islands; and Ireland, instead of paying England as heretofore, will send those very articles to her, by which alone she could expect to be paid by America for merchandize sent there. Others objections to the expectations of Ireland in this point will arise in multitudes; those are glaring and obvious. The depreciation of landed estates, and the ruin of stockholders, and of public credit, would be among the certain and inevitable consequences of such a concession; and however strong the declaration may appear, it is demonstrable, that an absolute and entire separation of the two countries would be less pernicious to the interests of Britain. If these objections appeared even less solid,

if they were but doubtful, or possibly in some degree founded on prejudice or jealousy, still any Minister would be hardy indeed, who should overlook them. On the other hand, it will be false patriotism to disquiet the two countries on a point, which one is not likely to yield, which the other has no rightful claim to press or insist on; which is not necessary to her, having already more ways of employing her capitals and people, and of growing rich, than she or any country now, or ever is likely to avail itself of; considering at the same time, that great concessions have already been made, and that others are still asked which are more reasonable, and more likely to be obtained, and not so prejudicial to Great Britain.

It is obvious, that the claim in question equally relates to East India goods; and it has been said in the Parliament of Ireland, that as she gives a monopoly of her consumption to the East-India Company, and takes from her in value to the amount of 350,000l. yearly, which is more than any other country, except Great Britain, she should be supplied

plied in the same manner, and have equal advantages. The Indiamen should have liberty to land their cargoes in Ireland ; the Company should have warehouses, and attend their customers there. The India goods imported into Ireland, should be warehoused without duty, with a power of exporting to Britain ; a fixed number of outward-bound Indiamen should visit Ireland, and there take their out cargoe, and such manufactures for which there is a demand in Asia, &c. &c. &c.

The answer is, that Ireland has no better claims on the India Company, than she has on any other company of merchants in London ; that she has East-India commodities as cheap, or cheaper, from the Company, than she could have them from any other quarter. She has no better claim to be waited on, and her manufactures taken from her door, than Edinburgh, Glasgow, Liverpool, Bristol, Quebec, Halifax, &c. The remains of our Norman dominions have an equal right to the same advantages ; and Jersey and Guernsey may equally claim to be waited on, and to see India ships in their ports. The charges of the transport of India goods to the distant
parts

parts of this kindom, are fully as great as to the ports of Ireland; and the consumers in those distant parts pay heavy duties on these very articles, which go towards the expences of the empire, consequently towards the expence of maintaining the India trade, to which Ireland contributes nothing; for whatever duties are paid by the consumers in Ireland, go to the revenue of that country.

Besides the above, the objections to this claim are generally the same as to the other, for admission of colonial or foreign produce from Ireland: they are not the objections of the Company of Merchants trading to the East Indies, but the objections of the people of Great Britain.—The restraints are as much against the Company as against Ireland; the Company might victual her ships cheaper there, and might have several advantages, by a direct intercourse between her factories and Ireland; but it would be inconsistent with the interest of England, and nearly in the same manner as already shewn on the subject of the other claim.

The

The Great *Reciprocal* Commercial arrangement between Britain and Ireland, of which we have heard so much, consists, as we have reason to believe, of all, or most, of these expectations on the part of Ireland : how the reciprocity is likely to arise, does not appear ; or indeed how it is in her power to make an adequate return ; but the American treaty, although not quite so strong a case as this may prove, is the precedent on which to found pretensions. At least, these are the difficulties ;—the sooner they are determined the better. Great Britain has to lament at this day, that so many great points have been conceded, without having this material one properly arranged ; which, undoubtedly, in the years 1780 and 1782, she might have settled in her own way. We have now only to hope, that ministers will have the wisdom to determine this, and every other point, firmly and decidedly ; so that Ireland may settle to industry, and that no commercial question may be again permitted to arise between the countries. Without such resolution, any discussion of the subject would be folly. The whole seems ultimately to rest on the expediency.

The

The people of Great Britain think that Ireland is in the habit of making successful requisitions, and that Great Britain is in the habit of inconsiderate concessions. The feeble Administrations of England, to avoid the mere difficulty of the day, are fond of expedients. The country has reason to be tired of them; it is time she should support herself; and there is not only more dignity, but policy, in firmness.

END OF PART I.

The Second Part will soon be published.

No. I.

TOTAL VALUE of all Commodities exported from Ireland to Britain for Ten Years, ending the 25th of March, 1783, distinguishing each Year, and the separate Value of Linens, Linen Yarn, Wool, Worsted, and Bay Yarn.

Years	Value of Linen.			Linen Yarn.			Wool.			Worsted and Bay Yarn.			Total of the Foregoing Articles.			Other Articles exported to Britain from Ireland.			Total Exports to Britain.					
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.			
1774	1237	121	11	0	175	166	0	0	503	11	7½	8	95880	16	8	1508671	19	3½	605177	19	0	2113849	18	3½
1775	1458	543	15	0	183	592	15	0	1003	12	11½	8	118345	11	8	1761485	14	7½	615031	18	7½	2376517	13	2½
1776	1435	110	16	4	216	915	5	0	529	14	1½	0	129790	15	0	1782346	10	5½	765114	3	5	2547460	13	10½
1777	1387	584	5	5	178	190	0	0	867	6	6¼	15	170054	15	0	1736696	6	11½	810435	18	1	2547132	5	0½
1778	1542	748	13	1	168	653	0	0	832	12	3	0	184134	0	0	1899368	5	4	816124	0	4½	2712492	5	8½
1779	1335	043	4	0	214	020	10	0	1939	5	5½	3	151409	3	4	1602412	2	9½	650564	9	11½	2252976	12	8½
1780	1219	921	0	0	254	219	15	0	1082	7	5	0	127321	0	0	1602544	2	5	778690	15	10½	2381234	18	3½
1781	961	455	13	4	223	215	0	0	552	7	11½	3	122786	3	4	1308009	4	7½	872206	3	4½	2180215	7	11½
1782	1646	138	2	8	169	126	10	0	1482	8	9	0	125732	8	0	1942479	9	5	757346	4	3½	2659825	13	8½
1783	1014	147	18	0	214	877	13	0	1031	10	11½	0	100015	15	0	1330122	16	11½	659167	19	9½	1989290	16	9

OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

MANUFACTURES,

TRADE,

AND

PRESENT STATE

OF

IRELAND.

BY JOHN LORD SHEFFIELD.

———Non Hostem, inimicaque Castra
Argivûm, vestras Spes Uritis———

DUBLIN:

Printed for R. MONCRIEFFE, L. WHITE, and P. BYRNE.

M.DCC.LXXXV.

C O N T E N T S.

P R E S E N T commercial temper of	Page
Ireland - - - -	1
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PART, THE SECOND.

MANUFACTURES.

TO assist the reader in forming an accurate idea, and in judging of the present state of Ireland, it may be proper to inquire separately into her several fabrics, and also to examine the principal articles of her trade with the different parts of the world. Manufactures being the foundation of commerce, they should be previously considered; and the linen manufacture of Ireland, undoubtedly, claims the first attention.

LINEN MANUFACTURE.

It has sufficiently appeared that the linen is, by far, the first manufacture of Ireland, and it is reasonable to flatter ourselves, that there is an opening for a very great extension of that trade. The author of the pamphlet, entitled, "Information to the People of Ireland on the Linen Trade," published by the Linen Board of Ireland, very properly observes, that Spain and Portugal alone take more linen than any one nation could supply; and that we

I

should

should alter and adapt our linens to the demand not only of the Spaniards, but also of the Portuguese and their respective colonial possessions. We should endeavour to prepare our linens for the markets of different countries: we have the three industrious nations of France, Flanders, and Germany, to contend with; we should obtain patterns, and imitate the linens of those countries which are in greatest demand abroad. If only two or three sorts of our linens could gain credit in Spain, we might be satisfied until time should give us an opportunity of imitating others; and to gain this credit may not be difficult, as our linens in general are of a more durable quality than the foreign. When it is considered that not only Spain and Portugal, but all America, both North and South, and the islands of that continent, the coast of Africa, and many other countries, will require an inexhaustible supply, it should quicken, in particular, the industry of Ireland. She has every advantage that France, Flanders, and Germany have; she has more, a national protection; a parliament forward to assist with the greatest liberality, and equally

ly eager to give employment and reward to industry: and this being the case, it is extraordinary that she cannot sell almost every article of linen as cheap, or cheaper, than any country. There is not a tax which necessarily falls on her manufactures, unless two shillings hearth money on a cottage, and the excise on beer, can be called such; indeed the remains of the old system which did not consider custom duties as regulations of trade, but merely as matter of revenue, still exist too much in Ireland; and some customs inwards on raw materials, may, properly, be considered as a tax on manufactures. In general, imports into Ireland pay ten per per cent. and exports five per cent. duties.

The manufacture of linen cloth is easily learned; it is confined to no one soil or territory, for where flax will not grow, it may be brought or imported on reasonable terms. It is no obstacle to agriculture; it is the most desirable manufacture that is known; it does not depend on fashions; it is the least transitory, and there must ever be a great demand for it. It should not be confined to one province; it

should spread through every country, through every district, and through every parish. It is chiefly carried on in the country, and in small villages, not in great towns or cities. There is not a county, or scarce any part of Ireland or England, where flax may not be raised, and some branch of the linen manufacture carried on to advantage. Next to agriculture, it is the best of all objects; and even in England it should rank with the woollen trade. No measure can tend more to increase population, than the promoting a manufacture which may raise and support so great a number of industrious, sober, and healthful families, in every part of the kingdom. This manufacture and the fisheries might advance the population of Ireland to an equality with that of Holland. Tillage would be greatly increased, and foreign trade extended.

It is not a great many years ago since linen yarn was sent from the British dominions to be wove in Holland. It was common to send cloth to be bleached there; and it is not long since the better sort of the people of this island wore Dutch Holland for shirts: this is now nearly at an end; yet the
value

value of foreign linens, exclusive of Irish, imported into England, exceeds that of any other foreign manufacture; it used to be computed at one million and an half; it is now about one million, and the whole amount of linen annually brought into England formerly, has been computed at three millions sterling. It has been already shewn, that the exports from Ireland to England of that article, on an average of four years, ending the 25th of March, 1778, amounted to near one million and an half. The amount from Scotland is supposed to be near half a million. Of these, to the value of about 400,000*l.* was annually re-exported, one half of which is said to be foreign. Thirty years ago, the annual import of foreign linens was 32,230,767 yards, but through the bounty of three half-pence per yard on the exportation of coarse home-made linen, and the subsidy upon all dry goods imported, which included foreign linen, the quantities made at home were so much increased as to reduce, in nine years, the annual foreign importation near seven millions of yards, viz. on a medium of five years, ending Christmas, 1765, it was only

25,550,182

25,550,182 yards. It has been computed, that the linen imported into England might employ and maintain upwards of 250,000 people at home, exclusive of those employed in raising and dressing flax.

It is to be lamented, that the quantity of linen made in England and Ireland for sale, is not ascertained in the same manner as in Scotland. It would be of service in obviating much misrepresentation. It would point out the progress or decline of the manufacture; we should know with more precision the quantity we can furnish; at present we can only form vague conjectures from import and export.

Notwithstanding we hear so little of the linen manufacture of England, it is said to be nearly equal to that of both Ireland and Scotland. It is much, if it is equal in quantity to what is even exported from Ireland. It has been already mentioned that Ireland exported above twenty-five millions of yards in 1782, and last year, viz. 1783, the total quantity of linen stamped for sale in Scotland, was

17,074,777

17,074,777 yards, value 866,983*l.* 10*s.* ; which is, 1,726,033 yards, value 91,885*l.**. more than the preceding year ; and since the year 1727, she had increased to that amount, from 2,183,975 yards, value 103,312*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.* †. Besides this, the quantity made for private use in Scotland must be very considerable. The manufacture, undoubtedly, is capable of being improved to a very great degree ; of being rendered doubly extensive, and the import of flax and linen, it is to be hoped, will gradually diminish. Some time may pass before the British dominions can supply themselves fully with linens ; yet if the progress of the manufacture should continue equal to what it has been, that period may not be very distant.

* The increase is said to have arisen chiefly from an unusual demand for the coarse fabric called Osnaburghs, which is wholly exported to America and the West Indies.

† The medium value of linen exported from Ireland at the same period, viz. 1727, was 284,721*l.* which is about one fifth of the late exportation of that article : The produce of cattle then exceeded the produce of linen ; and although it is now so extremely behind, the export has increased one third since that time.

It

It is worthy consideration whether an additional duty on foreign linen might not be advisable; it would not only improve the revenue but also operate as a bounty to the home manufacture.

It has been thought that bounties on the export linens are only necessary to counteract the advantages which the high drawback on foreign linens gave them as a branch of export; and it was said to be timid policy which prevented the annihilation both of drawbacks and bounties. But to refuse the drawback on the export of foreign linens would be highly mischievous to our export trade.—We cannot supply every sort of linen that our customers may want, or as cheap, as some countries, and we should not encourage our customers to send directly to those countries, if in the assortment of cargoes they will take them from us. If, then, we should not be able to command the more substantial advantages of being the manufacturers ourselves, our next object certainly ought to be, that of endeavouring to secure the supply of the foreign markets with these articles, whereby our own merchants will draw
the

the commercial profits arising from being the importers and exporters; we should then partake of the carriage, and American and other shipping would have less occasion for going to other countries.

The aid that has been given to labour in the cotton manufacture by machinery is not likely to be applied to the linen manufacture in any great degree. The fly-shuttle and the flax-mill are the principal aids lately acquired by the latter. The ingenuity of Mr. Arkwright and others has done much for manufactures, but the nature of flax makes it difficult to apply to it the cotton machinery, even to the degree that has been introduced into the wool-len manufacture within three or four years, especially in spinning and scribbling.

The following is the account of linens for three years exported from Ireland into England previous to the last war with France.

	Irish linen, plain.	Do. checked, or striped.	Do. full cloth.
	Yards.	Yards.	Yards.
From Christmas 1774, } to Christmas 1775, }	21,376,822.	53.	12072.
1776.	20,989,371.	124.	5,667 $\frac{1}{2}$.
1777.	20,151,065.		2,728 $\frac{1}{2}$.
	K		An

An Account of the total Quantities of British and Irish Linen, exported from that Part of Great Britain called England, shewing the Bounties paid on each Species, from the 5th of January, 1776, to the 5th of January, 1778, distinguishing each Year.

		From 5th January 1776, to 5th January, 1777.		From 5th January 1777, to 5th January, 1778.	
		Quantities.	Bounties paid or payable thereon.	Quantities.	Bounties paid or payable thereon.
		Yards.	£. s. d.	Yards.	£. s. d.
British.	Plain,	670	2 15 10	4347	18 2 3
	Ditto,	2875905	17974 8 1	320610	20122 11 3
	Checked,	1671928	3483 3 8	1802402	3755 0 1
	Diaper,	6123	38 5 4	9038	56 9 9
	Sheeting,	4050	25 6 3	5458	34 2 3
	Plain,	—	0 0 0	126	0 5 3
	Ditto,	1324397	8277 9 7	2234940	13968 7 4
	Diaper,	70	0 8 9	955	5 19 4
Irish.	Sheeting,	6381	39 17 7	3818	23 17 3
Total		5889521	29841 15 1	728064	37984 14 9

An Account of the Quantity of British and Irish Linens exported from England, without Bounty, from the 5th of January, 1776, to the 5th of January, 1778, distinguishing each Year.

British Linens.			Irish Linen. Plain.	
Plain.		Checked.		
Pieces.	Ells.	Ells.	Yards.	
38379 and	25978	44167	76412	
43840 and	3333	41589	141642	

From the 5th of January, 1776, to the 5th of January, 1777, —
 From the 5th of January, 1777, to the 5th of January, 1778, —

Custom House,
 London, June 2, 1778.

JOHN TOMKYNs, Assistant Inspector General.

The quantity of linen exported from Ireland to every country, exclusive of Great Britain, distinguishing each country, for the year ending 25th March, 1781.

		Yards.
East Country	-	29,612
Holland	- -	67,826
Spain and Portugal	-	108,215
America	- -	288,973
West Indies	- -	142,099

The quantity of linen yarn exported the same year to Great Britain, was 37,202 Cwt. value 223,215l.

The quantity of linen exported from Ireland to Great Britain, and the value.

		Linen cloth, plain.	value.			
		Yards.	£.	s.	d.	
Years ending	1782	24,692,072	1646138	2	8	
25th March.	1783	15,212,968	1014197	18	0	

		Linen coloured.	Value.			
		Yards.	£.	s.	d.	
Years ending	1782	767	62	6	4½	
25th March.	1783	—	—	0	0	

The

The quantity of linen exported from Ireland to every other country, (exclusive of Great Britain) and the value.

		Linen cloth, plain.	Value.		
		Yards.	£.	s.	d.
Years ending	1782	278,231	18,548	14	8
25th March.	1783	826,737	55,115	16	0

		Linen, coloured.	Value.		
		Yards.	£.	s.	d.
Years ending	1782	73,655 $\frac{1}{4}$	5984	9	9
25th March.	1783	166,127 $\frac{1}{2}$	13,151	15	1 $\frac{1}{2}$

The extraordinary decrease of exportation of linens to Great Britain, in the year ending 25th March, 1783, must principally have arisen from the unsettled state of the country, from the increased exportation to other countries, and from the checks occasioned by the vicissitudes of war; perhaps partly from the market being glutted by the great export of the preceding year; but the next year the quantity increased again. The author has not the Irish account of exports for that year; but the English, which it has been already remarked is not made up to the same period, is as follows:

An

70 LINEN MANUFACTURE.

An account of the linen and linen yarn imported into England from Ireland, from the 5th of January, 1782, to 5th January, 1783.

	Yards.
Linen	16,194,189
	Lbs.
Linen yarn	3,937,726
Irish linen entitled to bounty, exported from England in the above year	Yards. 1,087,561
Irish linen not entitled to bounty	150,266
Total	1,237,827

The above quantity exported with and without bounty is nearly the average for several years past.

Linen imported from Ireland into England, from the 5th January, 1783, to 5th January, 1784—20,687,528 yards.

The Table, No. 2, shews the demand for linens in America previous to the war, and gives the quantity of British, Irish, and foreign linens,

AN ACCOUNT

CALLICOES.					CANV	
Various.	Printed.	Excise.	Cambricks. Demy.	Heffian.		
Pieces.	Sq. Yds.	Pieces.	Pieces.	C. Qrs. Ells.		
43214	270151	4800	22135	999 2 10	4	

No. II.

An Account of the BRITISH and IRISH LINENS and COTTONS imported into NORTH AMERICA,
from GREAT BRITAIN, in the Year 1771; the several Sorts and Quantities distinguished.

L I N E N S.																									
Eed.	BRITISH.				Check.		COTTONS.				Cambricks & Scotch.	Damas.		Gauze.	Handkerchiefs.	IRISH.				Lawn & Scotch.		Napkins.	Printed.	Sail Cloth.	Table Cloth.
	Bounty.	Free.					British		Mixed.	Printed.						Bounty.	Free.								
		Pieces.	Yards.	Ells.			Scotch.	Pieces.									Yards.	Pieces.	Yards.						
70	2349877	28390	277895	7968	201071	388	33309	6420	45027	40	7	1	888	2395	2827982	4589	10194	59	12	67793	319428	48			

AN ACCOUNT of the FOREIGN LINENS and CALLICOES imported from BRITAIN into NORTH AMERICA in 1771;
the several Sorts and Quantities distinguished.

L I N E N S.																													
CALLICOES.			Cambricks. Denz.	CANVASS.		Excise.	DAMASK.		DIMITY.	DIAPER.				DUCK.		GERMANY.			HOLLAND.		LAWNS, SILESIA.			Aprons, Lawn.	RUSSIA.			Printed.	
Various.	Printed.	Excise.		Hessian.	Spruce.		General.	Silesia. Tabling.		RUSSIA.		SILESIA.				Narrow.	Broad.	Out of Time.			Not whitened.	Whited.	Broad.		Drilling.	Narrow.			
										Tabl.	Natr.	Tabl.	Nap.																
Pieces.	Sq. Yds.	Pieces.	Pieces.	C. Qrs. Ells.	C. Qrs. Ells.	Yds.	Ps.	Yds.	Ps.	Yds.	Yds.	Yds.	Yds.	Ps.	Yds.	C. Qrs. Ells.	C. Qrs. Ells.	C. Qrs. Ells.	Ps.	Yds.	Ps.	Ps.	Yds.	No.	C. Qrs. Ells.	C. Qrs. Ells.	C. Qrs. Ells.	Sq. Yds.	
13214	270151	4800	22135	599 2 10	4486 1 12	1301	229	2629	66	758	275	6194	3684	15313	7103 1 bolt.	161977	21686 3 11	58 0 27	39 2 7	76	1042	5466	5466	25699	281	2386 3 28	553 2 6	430 1 16	105013

linens, cottons, and callicoes, imported there from Great Britain in 1771, distinguishing the quantities and sorts.

The following Report of the late Board of Trade is ably drawn up, and conveys much Information relative to the Linen Manufacture :

To the Right Honourable the Lords of the Committee of Council appointed to consider the Irish Bills.

MY LORDS,

YOUR Lordships having been pleased, by your order of the 6th instant, to refer to us a bill, lately transmitted from Ireland, intituled, “ An Act for granting Bounties on
 “ the Export of the Linen and Hempen Ma-
 “ nufactures of this Kingdom, therein enu-
 “ merated ; and for repealing the Bounties
 “ on Flax Seed imported, and for encourag-
 “ ing the Growth thereof in this Kingdom ;”
 and having required us to report, how far the provisions of the said bill may affect the
 linen

linen trade of this kingdom, we forthwith proceeded to take the same into our consideration accordingly.

Finding, however, that it would be necessary to seek for much information, not contained in any papers transmitted to us, we desired the attendance of several respectable merchants interested in the general export trade, and in the linen manufactures of Manchester and Scotland, as also of some principal factors concerned in the imports and exports of Irish linens, and of other persons conversant in the extensive subject before us. In the result, we now beg leave to report to your Lordships,

That those clauses in the bill which repeal certain bounties now payable on imported flax seed or linseed, and apply the average annual amount thereof to encourage the growth of flax seed and hemp seed in Ireland, cannot affect the interests of the linen trade of this kingdom, and are, so far as bounties may in any case be expedient, wisely and providently applied by these new provisions, to promote the interest of the Irish linen trade.

The

The value of flax seed annually imported into Ireland was in 1773 estimated at from 60,000*l.* to 80,000*l.* exclusive of this great expence, it is the evident interest of that kingdom to give every reasonable encouragement to the internal produce of materials on which her staple manufacture depends, and to which her soil and climate are peculiarly suitable; and the trusting to her foreign importation for the supply of flax seed is more especially ineligible, as the seed so imported is said not to be so good and so certain, as that which is raised by the Irish culture.

It is consistent with the same reasoning, and equally unconnected with any special interests of our linen trade, that the bill imposes a duty of six pence per gallon on imported linseed oil, which is chiefly imported from Holland, and applies the produce in aid of the new bounty above mentioned. And here we shall take occasion to observe, that such farther duties as are imposed by the bill for the farther purposes therein specified, cannot come within the import of your Lordships' general question respecting our linen trade; for they consist in an

L additional

additional charge of five per cent. on the produce of all impost, excise, and customs inwards, except on tobacco, sugar, hops, and the produce of the British colonies in America, the West Indies, or the settlements in Africa, whereon any duties may be imposed, or altered, during the present session of parliament, and except also on any British hops or sugars.

We presume, then, that we have done right in confining our attention and inquiries to the remaining provisions of the bill, by which bounties are given to certain species of Irish linens exported to Africa, America, Spain, Portugal, Gibraltar, and Minorca; and also to Irish-made sail cloth exported to any place except Great Britain.

In examining these bounties, we found them in most respects similar to the bounties granted in Great Britain upon the exportation of British or Irish linens. There is some small difference with regard to linens of 5d. per yard, which are so stated in the Irish bill, in order to answer ours of 5d. English money, instead of being put at 5d. $\frac{5}{12}$, the proportion in Irish money; in consequence of which, the
bounty

bounty given in Ireland is, in a slight degree, higher than it is in Great Britain. There is, however, a difference much more material in the bounty on sail cloth, which, in the Irish bill, at 6d. $\frac{1}{2}$, upon every three ells, although in England it is only 1d. per ell. In other particulars we do not observe any difference, except in the denomination of money, for the purpose of equalizing the several bounties, respectively, to the proportions of what are given in this kingdom.

In taking a review of the last-mentioned bounties, which, on the average, are about 12 per cent. in favour of low-priced linens exported, it may not be immaterial to state to your Lordships the manner in which the British bounties have operated in favour of the Irish manufacture. The first bounties on linen exported took place in 1743, and the export from England, of Irish linen, intitled to bounty, was, in

			Yards.	
1743	—	—	40,907	
1753	—	—	1,039,967	
1763	—	—	2,588,564	
1773	—	—	2,832,246	
	L	2		This

This increase has been aided also by accumulated duties on the import of foreign linens into this kingdom, notwithstanding that such duties are said to have operated to the prejudice of our own woollen trade, by inducing foreign powers to lay reciprocal burdens and restrictions on our woollen manufactures. The consequence, however, has been, with respect to the Irish staple, that the general import of Irish linens has also been increased very greatly; for, the Irish linens imported into London, and the out-ports, were,

			Yards.
In 1743	—	—	6,418,375
1773	—	—	17,876,617
			<hr/>
Increase,			11,458,242

That this may be attributed to the system of bounties and duties, rather than to the general increase of our trade, will sufficiently appear from the proportionable decrease in the import and export of foreign linens, compared at the same periods.

Foreign linens imported into London and the out ports, were,

In

			Ells.
In 1743	—	—	18,584,503
1773	—	—	8,954,649
			<hr/>
			Decrease, 9,629,854

Foreign linens exported from London and the out-ports, were,

			Ells.
In 1743	—	—	9,894,837
1773	—	—	4,385,276
			<hr/>
			Decrease, 5,509,561

In order to shew farther the importance of this consideration between the two kingdoms, it deserves remark, that the total value of linen cloth exported from Ireland, was,

			Ells.
In 1741	—	—	480,516
1751	—	—	751,993
1761	—	—	803,258
1771	—	—	1,691,787;

and it is estimated, that about 7-8ths of that whole export is sent to Great Britain.

Having observed, that our system of linen bounties and linen duties, the possibility, in many cases, unexceptionable in the great scale
of

of commercial policy, has proved an essential encouragement to the Irish staple, we think it right to add, that it has also been the means of forcing forwards an extensive linen manufacture in this kingdom, though struggling under a great disadvantage as to the growth and supply of the raw material.

The export of British linen, intitled to bounty, was,

			Yards.
In 1743	—	—	52,779
1753	—	—	641,510
1763	—	—	2,308,310
1773	—	—	5,235,266

The increase in the exports of British and Irish linens, not intitled to bounty, has, during the periods above mentioned, been nearly as great in value, though not in quantity; and has been much promoted by the duties on foreign linens, which, when exported, leave behind a certain part of the duties paid on importation, and are subject to other custom-house charges; so that, before they can be reshipped, there is a disadvantage against the foreign manufacturer, equivalent from 5 to 6 per cent.

On

On these facts your Lordships will observe, that England is the principal market for Irish linens, to the annual amount in value of more than one million sterling; and that so large a sum is paid by this kingdom, not so much for export, as for her own internal consumption, at least 4-5ths of the whole quantity of imported Irish linens, and those of the highest price, being consumed in England. The other 1-5th only is exported; your Lordships will see, then, that Ireland has a solid and permanent market for her linen at present, whence she draws speedy and certain payments, and is thereby enabled to make large returns. And, consequently, the export of the 1-5th to the places specified in the bill, and the resulting advantages of that export, in a general extension of trade, must be the object of the present bill. The tracing how this may operate in Ireland, will best lead us to the probable effects of the measure on the linen trade of this kingdom, and thereby enable us to throw some light on your Lordships' inquiry.

From a comparison of what has been stated to us by different gentlemen, whose evidence we have taken, it does not appear, that the
average

average expence of freight, commission, warehousing, wharfage, and other incidents attending the import of Irish linen into British ports, in order to its export from thence, ought to be estimated at less than $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The bounties, therefore, being equalized in the two kingdoms, Ireland will be able to export this article, under the new opening given to her trade, to an advantage over the English exporter, equal to $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

This advantage will, for a certain period, be much counterbalanced by the long credits which will be necessary in the markets to which she must go; by the uncertain returns from those markets; by the difficulties of suddenly diverting any trade from its accustomed channel; and also by the inability of the Irish merchants to send full and well-assorted cargoes, such as are sent from England, and which include India goods, foreign linens, and the various articles of manufacture to be collected from Manchester, Birmingham, Sheffield, Norwich, and elsewhere. All these embarrassments are likely to bear hard on the first adventurers; but means of palliating these will gradually be found; and it must be expected, that an existing

ing operative advantage, in favour of any branch of trade, will ultimately effectuate its establishment.

Under these considerations we see, with some regret, an experiment tending to interrupt and hazard a great branch of commercial intercourse between the two countries, which has been highly and reciprocally advantageous. We are convinced, too, that this new speculation, so far as it succeeds, will operate to the diminution of our export trade, to the diminution also, of the returns for that trade; and consequently to the prejudice of our navigation, and of the commercial interests in general; but we cannot think that such mischiefs are suddenly to be expected to any considerable extent.

If, however, contrary to these reasonings, such a revulsion of trade should take place, it may be well to have foreseen and considered how far Great Britain would have some remedy within her own reach. The foreign manufacturers, notwithstanding the disadvantages under which they labour by the operation of our bounties and duties, which amount,

in their average effect, to near 15 per cent. have been able to preserve some degree of competition, especially in the fine linens; a small reduction therefore in those duties would, in the event supposed, enable this kingdom to supply herself with linens as cheap as ever, and with advantage to the revenue. It might probably, too, obtain in return a larger consumption of woollen manufactures and other goods upon the continent of Europe.

If, however, the first effect of the bill in question should tend to raise the price of the Irish linen, which it probably may, and which we are assured has already happened in some degree, it may be expected, that a larger importation of foreign linens will at once take place without any lowering the duties; and this will more particularly happen in the instance of foreign linens imported for home consumption, if, by the direct export of low-priced linens from Ireland, the Irish drapers should no longer be able to make suitable assortments for the English market.

The consequence would be, that the import of Irish linens in general would be considerably
dimi-

diminished, and those concerned in the fine branch of the manufacture would suffer in their business. Another consequence would be, if it should be thought expedient to continue the bounties, as at present, that the demand from the British manufactures increasing much, their produce would also increase in proportion; for it deserves remark, that, though this kingdom carries on her linen trade, subject to great and irremovable disadvantages, she is supposed at present to manufacture more linens than are exported from Ireland, and is therefore in that improved state of the business, which can furnish a quick supply to any sudden deficiency or increased demand.

Upon the whole view of the measure before us, we are not called upon to form an opinion, how far its sudden adoption, though favourable to the interests of the Dublin factors, and calculated to accelerate and extend the benefits of the North-America and West-India commerce now open to Ireland, is likely to promote the increase and security of the Irish staple manufacture. With respect to the operations of that measure on the linen trade of

this kingdom, it is necessary to advert to the state both of our exports and of our manufactures; and, with regard to the first, we submit to your Lordships, that, as far as the direct export of linen from Ireland may take place in consequence of the bounty now proposed by Ireland, in so much will our exports be affected, and the detriment resulting to our general trade from that circumstance, will be increased by the returns made for such exports, and by all the collateral consequences of a proportionable transfer of our navigation and general commerce to the ports of Ireland. With respect however to the operation on our linen manufactures, we think them much more likely to be promoted than injured by it; and we trust, for the reasons which we have already detailed to your Lordships, that the latter effect may be expected from this bill, and that the former will not speedily take place to any considerable extent.

We ought, before we close this Report, to take notice of that part of the bill which extends the bounty to the exported checked linens, of which our annual exportation from London, and the out-ports, is at present to the
amount

amount of 120,000*l*. This valuable branch of trade, which is chiefly supplied at present by Manchester, is certainly liable to be affected by the bounty now proposed in Ireland—it has hitherto been supported by the vigor and enterprising spirit of our manufacturers, though under the disadvantage of either purchasing the raw material from Ireland, where it is subject to a duty upon exportation, or from Embden, Hamburgh, and other places, where it is sold at a high price. It is easy however to foresee, that Ireland, having the material and the export, must gradually and ultimately have gained ground in this branch of trade, even without the bounty; and yet with that advantage it may be doubted whether she will suddenly surmount the various embarrassments, which she has to encounter, and which we have already described to your Lordships.

We are, My Lords,
Your Lordships
Most obedient and
Most humble servants,

Whitehall }
July 17, 1780. }

CARLISLE.
C. F. GREVILLE.
Wm. EDEN.
ANDW. STUART.
E. GIBBON.

PRO-

PRODUCE OF CATTLE.

This, undoubtedly, should be rated as the second great article of Irish commerce, and unless improper advantages are given to the American States, Ireland must profit very much, particularly by the articles beef and butter.

The present relaxation of the navigation laws by the proclamations, is likely to prove extremely prejudicial to Ireland, especially as the continuance of it may, at length, form a precedent, which afterwards will be considered as a principle. The colonial system of navigation laws, very properly gives the supply of the plantations and colonies to the British dominions alone. The suffering the produce of the American States to go to our settlements, has already prejudiced Ireland, and encouraged the provision trade of the American States : the latter has exceeded expectation as to quality, and unless that justice shall be done to the British dominions, to which the navigation laws entitle them, they will almost entirely lose the provision trade in a short time. Not only that right should be assured to them, but im-
mediate

mediate attention should be paid to the salt islands, which, since the separation of the colonies, are become objects of importance, although hitherto little noticed. Proper attention and regulations relative to them may give great advantage to the fisheries, as well as to the provision trade. The American States take an immense quantity of salt from those islands, and employ a great number of vessels in the trade; the salt of Turk's Island, Saltatudas, and Bahamas, is said to be stronger* and superior to Lisbon, Spanish, or any European salt; and that it cures not only fish, but pork and butter, and all substances that are of an oily nature, more perfectly. It would answer to the American States to pay two pence or three pence per bushel duty, rather than to go elsewhere; the duty would amply pay the expence of the frigates or sloops that it might be necessary to station at those islands, it would give an important advantage to the British dominions, an advantage *now* easily to be established.

* Salt made by the heat of the sun is said to be stronger than that made by fire, and in proportion to the heat and dryness of the climate.

At

At this moment a plan is in agitation, to admit the flour, live provisions, &c. of the American States into Newfoundland, and to give the supply of our fisheries to them. The apparent object in this case is not of so much consequence as the precedent to be established by it; and if the new state of things made it necessary to declare the law, instead of this dangerous indulgence, the opportunity should have been taken of establishing a general principle. It is astonishing that the proposition should be listened to; it is most strongly against the spirit of the trade laws; it proves that there is neither system nor principle on which men act. Ministers will take liberties with the people of England; but it is certain that the people of Ireland will refuse the monopoly of their markets to the British plantations, if they are deprived of their share of the monopoly of the plantation markets. Ireland has lately increased her trade to Newfoundland, and it is likely to increase to a great extent; but this new system tends to undo her there, and establish smuggling most completely, which flourishes by far too much already.

Water-

Waterford and Youghall will be essentially hurt; but it is not Britain and Ireland only that will suffer, the province of Quebec will be ruined if the system should continue. When the American States fulfill the treaty, and the posts on the lakes are given up, that province will lose three fourths, or at least two thirds, of the fur trade, and her recourse must be to the corn and provision trade. Her export of corn, previous to the disturbances in America, considering she had exported little before 1771, was immense, and proves how capable she alone may become to supply not only the British fisheries, but also the British West Indies. In 1774, she exported nearly equal to the consumption of the latter. It is to be observed, the river St. Laurence is open in the month of May before the fishery begins.

The hopes and expectations of the provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, will also be blasted; they must principally depend hereafter on the fisheries and provision trade. The system, if carried to any extent, would deprive the remaining colonies of those

advantages which alone can make it their interest to adhere to the British empire. An accidental scarcity of corn or provisions so immediately after a destructive war, and before the provinces could possibly recover their calamities, or settle, or in consequence of a very unfavourable season, is surely an insufficient pretext for the proposition alluded to; but when a good system is formed, and the merchants know on what they may depend, the supply of the colonies will be regular and certain. The exportation of corn from Quebec, during the war, was prohibited by the government of that province. The war, the public services, the corvees, and in some degree the apprehension that there would not be a sufficient demand at home, prevented the cultivation of the land. The addition of 15,000 troops, Loyalists and Indians, to the people of Quebec, however, increased the demand at home; and it must not now be brought as an argument, that the Newfoundland fisheries did not receive their full supply of flour or provisions from the province of Quebec. Even circumstanced as she was, she latterly sent some flour and biscuit to Newfoundland,

St.

St. John's, and Nova Scotia. A very extraordinary rainy season, and early frost, after a great part of the crop was cut down in 1783, occasioned the scarcity in 1784; but all accounts agree, that the crop of 1784 is very abundant, equal to any that has been known in that country, and fully sufficient to supply not only the fisheries, but also the remaining colonies, especially when we consider the quantity of land cultivated by new settlers at Cataraqui, and other parts of the St. Laurence, at Chaleur bay, and the neighbourhood of Lake Chaplain, through which, and the river St. Laurence, the produce of the Vermontese State must pass.

It is obvious that other plantations will think themselves better entitled to the indulgence in question, and will assert their claim. To talk of the admission of flour and live stock from the American States into Newfoundland, as an encouragement to the fisheries, is ridiculous. The five or six hundred vessels, from one hundred to two hundred and fifty tons that go to that fishery, generally carry out as much or more provisions

than they consume. The fishermen live on fish and fat pork, of which, with hard biscuit, they make a dish that is preferred by them to fresh provisions; neither the bank fishing, nor the in-shore, or boat fishing, will admit of any other but salt provisions. We should not, then, take steps to encourage permanent settlements at Newfoundland. It is farther to be observed, that the whole annual consumption of flour by our people on that island, does not, in value, exceed eight or nine thousand pounds prime cost at the most which the bill supposes Britain, Ireland and the remaining colonies, cannot supply. As to fresh provisions, there is little demand, except for officers and a few others; and in the prosperous year 1770, the whole import from all America of live cattle, was one hundred and fifteen; carcases twenty four; sheep one thousand and twenty; poultry, fifteen dozen; and of flour and biscuit, six hundred and seventy-seven tons, value thirteen shillings per cwt. Most assuredly more New-England rum, and contraband articles, will be smuggled, by means of this indulgence, from the American States to Newfoundland,

foundland, than live provisions and flour, will be imported. This mischievous precedent should not be allowed to Newfoundland in particular. The shipping that go there are not half laden; they should carry with them what is wanted for themselves and the island, by which some money will be saved to the country; at least it should have no competitors in that supply except the remaining colonies; and those employed in the fisheries, should be well content to give the advantage to that country, which, by great bounties and encouragements, enables them to carry on their business. In addition to the above, the general objections to the promoting intercourse between our colonies and the American States will occur; that it is contrary to the true spirit of all colonial regulations, for the advantage of the mother country and the appertaining dominions; that it infallibly promotes the smuggling of New-England rum; and that a great loss of seamen, on our part, will be a certain consequence.

The excellent system which was established in King William's reign, and which was so well

well understood by some who have commanded on the Newfoundland station, should not be forgotten or neglected. The masters of vessels were obliged, under penalties, to bring back the men, or as many as they carried out with them, and every step was taken to prevent their settling there. The passing the Atlantic twice every year; at the same time that hardy and excellent seamen were raised, gave this country an opportunity of availing itself of their services in cases of necessity, on their going out in spring, and return in autumn.

But, to resume; the provision trade is infinitely more advantageous to Ireland than seems generally to be imagined; and there cannot be worse policy than her exportation of live cattle. On the contrary, she should slaughter her own cattle, and cure the beef for exportation: it is as much a manufacture as linens; although the management of the beef, the hides, the tallow, &c. may not, perhaps, employ, proportionably, quite so many hands as flax. The turning too much land to the raising of cattle, under a bad system of husbandry, might tend to depopulate, but there is no danger

ger of that kind in the present thriving state of Ireland. The provision trade is said to be in some degree, uncertain ; but that assertion requires examination ; and it would surely be imprudent for Ireland, on mere surmise, to decrease her quantity of cattle, when butter, cheese, &c. &c. have yielded such large returns *. Agriculture is concerned in raising and feeding cattle, and tillage is not prevented in the degree that is often imagined by maintaining those necessary animals. One thousand acres, of which a due proportion is tilled, will maintain, under good management, by artificial grasses, turnips, &c. more cattle than an equal quantity of pasture land. Provisions are a natural staple article of commerce for Ireland ; her climate is better adapted to it than any other ; her cattle can remain longer in the field, and her beef can be cured a greater part of the year than elsewhere, from the temperature of her seasons ; neither frost nor heat interrupting that business for a long continuance.

* The gateage, or one penny per head on all cattle entering the gates of Cork, amounts to 600*l.* yearly, that is, on 144,000 head.

That

That the provision trade has been particularly unequal, does not appear from the imports and exports, its fluctuations have been imputed to peace and war, and it is supposed that it declines in peace: on the contrary, from the following average of the export, for five years of peace, and also for five years of war, it appears that the peace export of beef, butter, cheese, &c. exceeds the war export. It should be observed, that the provisions taken on board ships of war and transports in Ireland, are not included. In 1778, the export of beef from thence, on account of the troops, was, — — 13,206 barrels,

Butter 8,701 cwt.

which is not half sufficient to make up the difference. The great increase in the exportation of pork did not arise merely from the war. The quantity of hogs raised of late years in Ireland, has been much greater than formerly and the import of pork from Ireland into England alone, in the year ending 5th Jan. 1783, was 45,995 barrels, which exceeds the whole export of pork from Ireland twenty years ago. Considering that Ireland is so great a dairy country, it is extraordinary there was
not

not a greater abundance of swine sooner. It may however be remarked, that the butter-milk of Ireland is much better than that of England, and is there the food of man.

The average of five years, ending 25 March, 1774, of the following articles exported from Ireland :

Beef	{ barrels	—	202,559		
	{ carcases	—	68		
Butter, cwt.	—		266,481	3	22
Cheese, cwt.	—		2,179	1	0
Candles, cwt.	—		2,107	3	19
Tallow, cwt.	—		44,270	3	27
Hides	{ tanned, No.	—	46,795		
	{ untanned, No.		84,227		
Bullocks and cows	—		1,088		
Bacon, flitches, No.	—		14,354		
Hogs, No.	—		319		
Hogs lard, cwt.	—		2,105	1	25
Pork, barrels,	—		46,924		

The average of five years, ending 25th March, 1782 :

Beef	{ barrels	—	172,690		
	{ carcases	—	21		
Butter, cwt.	—		245,683	1	21
	O				Cheese,

Cheefe, cwt.	—	1,374	3	15
Candles, cwt.	—	4,524	3	12
Tallow, cwt.	—	42,476	1	16
Hides	{ tanned, No.	—	11,973	
	{ ditto, cwt.	—	35	3 24
	{ untanned, No.		63,547	
Bullocks and cows, No.		2,993		
Hams, cwt.	—	317	1	21
Bacon, flitches, No.	—	5,983		
Hogs, No.	—	280		
Hogs lard, cwt.	-	3,392	2	26½
Pork, barrels	—	87,085		

Twenty years ago, and immediately following the former war, the export of beef and also of butter, was nearly the same as the above peace average: and about sixty years ago the average export of beef was nearly two thirds of the late exportation, viz. 135,270 barrels; and of butter the same, viz. 161,123 cwt. which proves that tillage and population have not decreased the quantity of cattle in Ireland.

The late arret concerning the commercial intercourse allowed to foreigners with the French West-Indies, appears to give the same advantages to the British European and American

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can dominions, as it does to the American states. Although dated the 30th August, 1784, it was not published till the 30th November following. It seems to grant greater advantages and to open the French islands more to strangers than any former arret; but it permits in fact little more than was allowed, though not always publicly, before the war, except, that certain European articles may now go directly there, without passing through the medium of the ports of France. All the seaports of that kingdom are remonstrating most vigorously against it; and when the court of Versailles perceives the prejudice that will be done to the marine of France, attention will be paid to the complaints of the merchants. However a considerable preference is reserved to the French shipping and fisheries. The advantages given to the American states by France have been so much misrepresented and exaggerated that the principal articles of the arret will be inserted in a note*, especially as the

* ARRET du Conseil d'Etat du ROI, concernant le Commerce étranger dans les îles Françaises de l'Amérique, du 30 Août, 1784.

the same advantages are given by it to the British dominions.

This

ARTICLE PREMIER.

L'ENTREPOT ci-devant assigné au Carénage de Sainte-Lucie, sera maintenu pour ladite isle seulement, & il en sera établi trois nouveaux aux Isles du Vent ; savoir, un à Saint-Pierre pour la Martinique, un à la Pointe-à-Pitre pour la Guadeloupe & dépendances, un à Scarborough pour Tabago. Il en sera pareillement ouvert trois pour Saint-Domingue, savoir, un au Cap François, un au Port-au-Prince, un aux Cayes Saint Louis : celui qui existe au Mole Saint-Nicholas dans la même colonie, sera & demeurera supprimé.

II.

PERMET sa Majesté, par provision & jusqu'à ce qu'il lui plaise d'en ordonner autrement, aux navires étrangers, du port de soixante tonneaux au moins, uniquement chargés de bois de toute espèce, même de bois de teinture, de charbon de terre, d'animaux bestiaux vivans de toute nature, de salaisons de bœufs & non de porcs, de morue & poisson salés, de riz, mais, légumes, de cuirs verts en poil ou tannés, de pelleteries, de résines & goudron, d'aller dans les seuls ports d'entrepôt désignés par l'article précédent, & d'y décharger & commercer lesdites marchandises.

III.

IL sera permis aux navires étrangers qui iront dans les ports d'entrepôt, soit pour y porter les marchandises permises par l'article II, soit à vide, d'y charger pour l'étranger, uniquement des sirops & taffias, & des marchandises venues de France.

TOUTES

This subject brings to recollection a curious publication of last summer, entitled, “ A
“ State

IV.

TOUTES les marchandises dont l'importation & l'exportation sont permises à l'étranger dans lesdits ports d'entrepôt, seront soumises aux droits locaux, établis ou à établir dans chaque colonie, & payeront en outre un pour cent de leur valeur.

V.

INDEPENDAMMENT du droit d'un pour cent, porté en l'article ci-dessus, les bœufs salés, la morue & le poisson salés, payeront trois livres par quintal; & fera le produit dudit droit de trois livres, converti en primes d'encouragement pour l'introduction de la morue & du poisson salés, provenant de la pêche Française.

VI.

LES chairs salées étrangères qui seront introduites dans les colonies par des bâtimens François, expédiés directement des ports de royaume, ne seront point assujetties au paiement des droits mentionnés dans les deux articles précédens.

VII.

IL sera établi dans chaque port d'entrepôt un nombre suffisant de commis, pour veiller à ce qu'il ne soit introduit ni exporté d'autres marchandises que celles que sont spécifiées dans les articles II. & III. du présent arrêt; & afin qu'il ne reste aucun soupçon d'inexactitude dans cette surveillance, autorise sa Majesté les négocians François résidans
dans

“ State of the Allegations and Evidence produced, and Opinions of Merchants and Others, given to the Committee of Council.”

The presumption with which the report of that very respectable Committee has been treated, was reserved for these times; that Committee was not to be tampered with. A great desire was expressed not only by the Public, but in Parliament, for the publication of that Report. After it had been agreed, that it should be printed for the members, the House was told, that it would be improper, on

dans chacun desdits ports d'entrepôt, ainsi que les Capitaines de navires qui pourront s'y trouver, à nommer respectivement entr'eux des Commissaires, lesquels seront chargés de dénoncer les négligences ou abus qu'ils pourroient reconnoître, & assisteront, lorsqu'ils l'estimeront convenable, à toutes les visites qui auront lieu, soit à l'arrivée, soit au départ des navires étrangers,

These articles do not seem calculated by any means to encourage foreign vessels to go to the French free ports in the West-Indies; and the last of the above articles seems to put foreigners in the power of the French merchants and French masters of ships.

There are twelve other articles which regulate the entry of the foreign vessels, &c.

account

account of individuals, to give more than extracts; undoubtedly, in some instances, it was proper to withhold names, and that would have been sufficient, or all the names might have been withheld; but at the end of two months, the above extraordinary performance appeared. It is little worth while now to analyse, or mark what it is, but the French arret reminds us of the following assertion contained in that publication, which could not be accidentally inserted; it was intended to have great weight, viz. *that permission is given to the vessels of the American States, to load with the produce of the French islands without any limitation*; this most certainly is not true. It is not difficult to discover for what purpose it was calculated; but, nevertheless, the publication fabricated, and in the occult manner that it has been, sufficiently proves, that to open the British West Indies to the American States, not only is unnecessary, but would be extremely mischievous.

Not merely the provision trade is greatly prejudiced, but the commerce and marine of the British dominions are likely to be essentially

tially impaired, through the encouragement which is given to infractions and suspensions of the navigation laws by the unprincipled or unsystematic proceedings of Administration. It would require a volume to state to the public the abuses communicated to the writer of these Observations, relative to the registering of shipping, not only in the West Indies, where there is scarce an attempt at concealment, and in Ireland, but also in Great Britain. A few pieces of money will immediately convert an American into a British-built ship; and a certificate may be got in Britain, in Ireland, and the British West Indies, for a ship now building at Philadelphia. It is absolutely necessary to the salvation of the most essential of all manufactures, namely, ship-building, that the abuse be stopt; and surely it is time that our Ministers should understand the necessity of it. The greatness of the abuse leads us to inquire into the necessity of permitting other certificates or registers to be given in the distant settlements, at least to vessels trading with the British European dominions, except such as may be sometimes necessary to bring a vessel home. Without pre-
fuming

fuming to propose the proper checks to the evil, it is greatly to be wished some measures may be adopted for that purpose.

The late infraction of the navigation laws, by the opening the ports of Jamaica for four months to all the shipping of the American States*, and in effect, to every good or bad manufacture or produce of Europe and America, and just at the time that the legislature of Great Britain had refused to adopt such a ruinous principle, surely deserves a public inquiry.

It was by no means necessary to open the ports; the hurricane which had happened was by no means general over the island; nor had it spread far into the country; of if it had, was the step which was taken proper. It was to be expected that advantage would be taken of the calamity for the moment; but that could not last long, neither did it, there was British shipping abundantly employed in the trade, and fully sufficient to supply every thing that might be wanting.

The commerce and marine of Great Britain
must not depend on the wisdom or interest of

* It has been extended to six weeks longer.

plantation governors, or, rather, of those that surround them. Our merchants do not know how to act; they do not know, they cannot guess, what it is now worth while to send: common prudence will direct them to send nothing. The British merchants meet sufficient checks and difficulties, without this additional sporting with their profession and fortunes; if there is to be no commercial system, it must be their resource to retire to some village, where they will only suffer equally with the rest of the inhabitants.

The provision trade, which is now the subject of inquiry, must have received a severe blow. It was apprehended that the provisions which were preparing, if sent, would go to an overstocked, at least to an unsteady or uncertain, market; but it appears that the measure of a partial, or temporary and occasional, opening of the ports to the American States, has, in reality, produced a scarcity; and that the same effect may be expected in Newfoundland. The merchants in these kingdoms keep back the export of provisions, because they suppose that the market will be overstocked from the
American

American continent, and those of the American States are equally apprehensive, because they suppose it may be glutted from hence. Many of the most respectable planters reprobate the measure; they foresaw the consequences; and letters from Jamaica mention, that shortly after the hurricane, a great number of British vessels arrived with provisions, and articles of all kinds, which were sold as cheap as at any time. Shortly after, lumber was sold there very considerably below the price at Philadelphia. The British vessels finding the trade was laid open, gave it up. The lumber was bought up at a low price; it was soon raised, and was retailed at a high price; and the Americans have now raised lumber and other articles very much. The manufacturers of these kingdoms will observe, that, with lumber and provisions, all sorts of manufactures will be introduced in the shipping of the American States; and as the Americans do not pay for them, they may be, afforded very cheap indeed. This digression may be excused, because the subject is highly interesting.

Besides beef and butter, there is other very valuable produce from cattle, such as tallow, hides, &c.; and when Ireland thinks proper to quit her unprofitable pursuits, she will, if she is wise, greatly extend her trade in the manufactures of leather, especially to America and the West Indies. At the time that the minds of her people are employed in unavailing or hurtful speculations, she is suffering an exportation that is extremely prejudicial. The quantity of live cattle she has sent to Britain within seven or eight months is prodigious. Perhaps when a temporary scarcity of cattle shall have raised the price greatly, and they cannot be got for the better purpose of barrelling for exportation, and hides also shall be scarce, these circumstances will serve for additional declamation on ruined trade and in favour of non-importation agreements and reform. It is not only bad policy to send out live cattle, but also hides tanned or untanned. It is obvious that the manufacture of all materials should be carried as many stages as possible. Hitherto Ireland has exported an inconsiderable quantity of wrought leather.

leather. Her exports of shoes to all parts, in the year ending the 25th of March, 1783, was only 14,803lb.* all of which went to America and the West Indies, except 224 lbs. to Denmark and Norway, 1436 lbs. to Portugal, and 448 lbs to the Straits. And of sadlers' ware she exported only to the value of 98l. 6s. The tanned hides exported to all parts the same year was 10,488 in number, and 73 cwt. of which nine tenths went to Italy and the Straits. Untanned hides to all parts, 58,079 in number, of which 50,204 went to England, and 4585 to Scotland. Calves skins 22,510 dozen, almost the whole of them to England and Scotland. It is known that great frauds are committed in the entry of hides, and especially of calves' skins outwards; there is a duty on the export; and it is certain that the quantity exported exceeds greatly the quantity entered in the Custom-house books. It is remarkable that in the

* And in 1773 she exported only 48 lbs. to all parts, and in 1777 she exported none. England exported, on an average of years ending with 1774, 443,899 lbs. of wrought leather.

same

same year, Ireland imported 284 cwt. of sheep skins entirely from Britain, except 72 cwt. from France, and 25 cwt. from Flanders.

The scarcity of bark in Ireland gives England an advantage over her in the tanning business. She imported in the year ending 25th March, 1783, 90,836 barrels, all from Britain, except 1406 barrels from Germany, and 10 barrels from Denmark and Norway.

Abstract of bullocks sold at Ballinasloe fair in the following years, which seems to prove an increase of cattle.

B U L L O C K S.			
	Sold.	Unfold.	Total.
1771 Oct.	10,876	—	10,876
1772 —	12,346	257	12,603
1773 —	9,764	469	10,233
1774 —	9,328	263	9591
1775 —	10,201	113	10,314
1776 —	9,635	4475	14,110
1777 —	9,646	1815	11,461
1778 —	7,920	4448	12,368

N. B. The failure in 1778 arose from the stagnation of credit.

F I S H.

F I S H E R I E S.

Notwithstanding the present insignificant state of the Irish fisheries, it may reasonably be expected that in due time they will, among articles of trade, rank, at least, third in point of national profit, and immediately follow the linen and provision trade. In point of general advantage, they might, perhaps, rank first, by the great extension they may cause of the navigation of Ireland.

At present Ireland comparatively with her neighbours, and considering her situation and advantages, has very little shipping: part at least of her anxious care for the woollen manufactures might be well transferred to this branch of trade, which has never yet been made an object of her attention; and the opinion that she can never build as cheap as her neighbours was as ill founded as the other vulgar errors which we daily hear. In most places of England and Holland, where the business of shipbuilding is carried on to great advantage, the timber is imported, and also the naval stores and ship chandlery. When once embarked, it is of little moment whether those articles are
carried

carried coast ways or a few leagues farther across the sea. Oak timber, naval stores, and ship chandlery, on an average, ought to be as cheap in Ireland as in Britain or Holland ; and the injudicious and much higher duties on fir timber imported into Britain, of which vast quantities are used in ship building must give some advantages to Ireland, where the duties are so much lower.*

The

* As Ireland does not produce at present, and is not likely, for a long time, to afford a quantity worth notice of any kind of timber for ship building, the policy of laying duties on such timber does not appear ; but as England produces a large quantity of the best oak timber, it may be expedient to maintain the duties on that article coming from foreign countries, lest the growth should be discouraged at home. Even while the duties exist, the growth is much discouraged by the distance of the profit. The advantage to be derived at the end of almost a century, is not very inviting. In the mean time, some expence is incurred in maintaining the woods ; in many parts, however, the underwood yields a considerable profit where the timber is not thick. Scattered trees, or those that grow in hedge rows, are by no means clear gains, for they are detrimental to agriculture ; yet, in the end, oak timber is very profitable, especially in good land. It may be answered, where-

ever

The establishment of the fisheries of Ireland will, of course, promote ship building, and greatly extend navigation, which will open new markets. Her manufactures will be carried cheaper, and in a manner forced into countries where they now either do not go, or go under disadvantages; for nothing can be more certain than that those nations which have much of the carrying trade, derive many benefits from it, more than the profit of freight *, which, however it is very considerable.

ever it grows well, other things will also grow well, producing a present profit; where, however, an immediate income is not wanted, it pays better in the end than any other produce. The no small recommendation of a timbered country, is, that it in a manner imperceptibly enriches the owner, and often saves an estate from sale. On the whole, it may be doubted whether it would be expedient to admit without duties, such timber as we can grow, lest, in the end, we should become entirely dependent on foreign countries for ship timber, and be reduced to a mode of supply both precarious and expensive. If it should be easy, on the importation of other kinds of timber, to discriminate between that which is used for ship building, or for other uses, it might be advisable to remove the duties entirely from the former, or at least to reduce them.

* Even those that are jealous of Irish manufactures, should not be equally so of the increase of Irish shipping.

able. It is needless to state the number of artificers employed in ship building, and the many trades dependent on it; but the fisheries are the first and best foundation of a marine. It is the first stage; and if the country does not furnish freight for a quantity of shipping, the fisheries will help to provide it for them.

Ireland has advantages in the several fisheries which no other country in Europe has, particularly in situation. Her numerous creeks and harbours give other natural advantages. The almost lavish disposition of her Parliament to promote every seeming interest of the country, and the eagerness of individuals to inform themselves, and to encourage such undertakings, appear likely to insure success.

To the empire at large, it is indifferent to which of the islands shipping belongs; there is full room for both to extend themselves. The furnishing of seamen and marines are the means by which Ireland can best contribute her quota to the support of the empire; and judging from the well-known spirit and temper of her people, there can be no doubt of her liberal compliance, on emergency, with requisitions for that purpose from this country.

These

These are great and leading advantages ; but the most necessary of all requisites, the habits of the trade, correspondencies and private capitals, which can stand in competition with the established fisheries of the north of Europe, are still wanting. Much is still to be done before Ireland can take a lead in any one branch of the fisheries : in the mean time her attention is divided, and her capitals dwindled into trifles, which can never enable her to rival Holland. It is advisable that she should confine herself to one branch, in which she must endeavour to become perfect ; and until she excels, and by a great extension of her exertions can afford to sell cheap, there is no probability of her commanding foreign markets.

H E R R I N G F I S H E R Y.

It is in the herring fishery she is most likely to excel, and it is that, principally, which she should, at least for a time, pursue. She should not suffer herself to be distracted by uncertain attempts at other fisheries until she is well founded in this ; England, by being in

possession of the whale fishery, has great and almost unfurmountable advantages over her in that branch ; and the difference of distance is not, perhaps, so great an object as at first appears.

Notwithstanding the herrings have, in great measure, during the last fifteen years, deserted the coast of Scotland, except, perhaps, the north-western, and almost unexplored parts, yet the superior frugality, sobriety, and steadiness of her people, their industry in taking the fish, and greater cleanliness in curing them, will enable her to rival Ireland, although the latter has the fish at her very door, where the Scotch now come to look for them. For on the north-western coast of Ireland the herrings are caught in vast quantities close to the shore.

It is the north-west wind which throws the herrings towards this coast. There is considerable uncertainty as to the bay or creek where they may first be found. They sometimes first appear in Sligo bay ; but the best fishery is at the Rosses and near Killebegs. The north-west wind, which prevails on this coast,

coast, is terrible, and produces a great sea, that is no small interruption to the fishery. This part of the coast is very bold, the creeks and harbours not so frequent as elsewhere, nor always to be approached. It is difficult for the vessels to run into shelter, when they can no longer keep the sea. A huge swell dashes against the roots of the mountains which form this coast, and this seems to give an advantage to the Scotch fishery which is carried on in the loughs or branches of the sea which run into the land, and between the main land and the Hebrides. The last must afford great shelter; but, on the other hand, it is said, that the fishery succeeds best in stormy weather; but if fish is not wanting, we cannot doubt a sufficiency of storm amidst the Hebrides. Herring nets can be handed only in small boats, and the fishery is never hurt by any weather in which the boats can live; a little wind is even necessary for them, as they always drift before it, when fishing, or with the tide, which ever prevails. The vessels on the bounty, as well as those from Liverpool and the Isle of Man, come into the harbours and remain there. The fishery is
entirely

entirely carried on by the boats (and within the bays, sometimes to the head of the smallest and narrowest creeks) and those mostly of the country, as the vessels seldom look out for any fish, but buy of the fishermen of the place. The Scotch, indeed, come over in buffes, and bring boats, salt, nets, buoys, &c. and take their own fish, and royals, packs, or barrels, on board their buffes.

In 1780, one hundred and thirty bounty vessels were at the fishery in Lough Swilly: they expended, in the cure of fish, 1708 tons of salt, which salt cured in bulk (allowing 30 maize, or 15,000 fish to one ton of salt) 51,240 maize. A maize is 500 herrings.

In 1781, the bounty vessels in the same lough were 147: salt expended, 1914 tons: maize or barrels cured, 57,420.

In 1780, seventy-one vessels from Liverpool and the Isle of Man, purchased cargoes in Lough Swilly for their red-herring houses. They brought, per cocket, for curing fish at sea, 650 tons of salt, (on which the duty, if demanded, 335l. 16s. 8d.) and with the salt they
bought

bought, and royaled, 39,000 maize, for which they paid 8,125l. at 10d. per hundred.

In 1781, one hundred and seventeen vessels, from the same places, bought cargoes there, for the same purpose. They purchased, and royaled, with the salt they brought, 49,950 maize or barrels, and paid 12,487l. 10s. so that the above vessels in those two years purchased in Lough Swilly 88,950 maize or barrels, for which they paid cash, and left in Lough Swilly 20,612l.

Total of herrings taken in two years, by the bounty and red-herring men, out of Lough Swilly, 197,610 maize or barrels.

In the Summer, 1784, the herrings came upon the north-west coast about the last week in June, and continued until about the last week in September. At first they were of a small size, but increased considerably; and latterly they were large, but, by no means, the size of the winter herrings. It is almost impossible to give even a satisfactory guess at the numbers that were taken. There was, for a considerable part of that time, no other demand

demand than from the country about thirty miles around, and the take was so very great, and the demand so small, that incredible numbers were thrown away; and, upon an average price for a month, they did not exceed 10d. per thousand. The number was so great, that 4d. 5d. or 6d. was the price of an horse load, and there was no restriction as to the load. They were boiled for oil, the price of which was 10d. per gallon, and was very good for lamps. The guts of 500 of the smallest harvest herrings, when boiled, produce about a gallon of very good lamp oil, which is mostly lost at present. This kind of oil is much used by curriers.

The number of boats that were employed in the herring fishery, was from 70 to 100; and during the height of the season, each boat could have taken at least as many more as they did, seldom having occasion to shoot their nets more than once for the boat load. As to the sum each boat made, it is said to be about 54l. and computing the price of herrings to be 20d. per thousand, each boat took 648,000, which multiplied
by

by 70, the number of boats employed, gives 45,360 000, the number of herrings sold, exclusive of what were boiled for oil, or were thrown away.

The herrings taken in July, August, and September, have hitherto been supposed incapable of being properly cured, on account of their very extraordinary richness; but this is found to be otherwise; for some of them in their richest state have been cured, (and finer there cannot be) and it appears that if a sufficient quantity of salt is used, they may be preserved as well as the winter herring: but, by not taking proper care, and by a trifling saving, the commodity has been brought into disrepute. It has been suggested, that some regulation in the curing the harvest herring is necessary. The quantity of salt used for the winter fish, will preserve the harvest herrings for a short, but not for a long time.

Sir Lucius O'Brien and Mr. Grossett have collected and given to the public much useful information relative to the fisheries; and some very intelligent gentlemen of Ireland having interested themselves in this

R

business,

business, there is no doubt that it will have all the assistance that can be given to it.

Our prepossession in favour of the fisheries, founded on the patriotic wish to assist the navigation and marine of the empire, is highly laudable. It however, perhaps, leads us willingly to credit golden dreams of inexhaustible markets, without much examination. We read of the fisheries having produced to Holland nine millions sterling yearly, and a revenue of one million. Almost all the writers on this subject copy Vice Admiral Sir William Monson, or those that copied him; of course there seems to be a good mass of evidence to the same point. The number of buffes, and people employed, and lasts of herrings, and other fish caught, is prodigious. One writer, however, Meynert Semyens, who published *A Brief Description of the Herring Fishery*, in Dutch, printed at Enchuyfen in 1639, and who lived in the time of Monson, does not make the number of buffes employed half so many as the other writers, who say 1800 buffes, and 9000 vessels of all sorts
were

were employed in that fishery, Meynert Semyens mentions 700 buffes only: this is a great number. It is now reduced to 200; but it should be observed, that the tonnage of the buffes in those days was about 16 tons, and now that they are, on an average, 26 tons.

Sir William Monfon had distinguished himself as a sea officer in the reigns of Elizabeth and James I. He seems a respectable writer, and to have been a man of research and observation; he had the best opportunities of information, and had explored the seas he mentions, particularly the coast of Ireland and north west of Scotland; he had commanded in those seas, and his description generally agrees with the best accounts that can now be had. As to the prodigious quantity of fish taken by the Dutch, he mentions, that the account was obtained from the custom-house books of Holland. He gives us the several markets, and the quantity of fish taken by each place, and the whole seems to be authentic; but we should have had more satisfaction in believing him, if he had not believed that in

Spain a mermaid came out of the sea, “ engendered with a woman on shore, and begat on her a child.”

At all events, we know that the advantage of the herring fishery to the Dutch has been very great, that it is diminished, but still is very considerable; that the Swedes and Eastlanders have got a considerable share of it. That the French have little of it, nor are they likely to have much more, the herrings in the seas which are convenient to them, being small and bad, as they are on the south coast of England and south of Norfolk. It is observed, that coming from the north, they become comparatively a bad fish when they arrive so far south as Orfordness, and that as they return to the north again, they improve; and when they arrive near the Western Isles, they become once more a fine fat fish.

And here the unfriendly disposition of the two nations of Ireland and Scotland, on the subject of the fisheries, should be noticed. It is injurious to each, as the utmost and united exertions of both countries will,

will, with great difficulty, gain upon the Dutch, and enable them to obtain and supply the foreign demand. While the herrings were on the coast of Scotland, the complaints were against the Scotch; but they are now turned against the Irish. It should rather be the business of Ireland to learn the art of fishery and curing fish from the fishermen of Campbeltown; they should court their assistance; and it would be still better if a colony of Dutchmen could be settled at the Rosses. Neatness, in which the Dutch excel, is not the quality for which the lower ranks of Scotland or of Ireland are most distinguished; yet it is the neatness of the Dutch, and care in curing, that acquired, for their fish, a high reputation, and gained for it so extraordinary a market.

The legislatures of the two islands should form the necessary regulations, which might be enforced by sloops or cutters. It is said, that besides other ill treatment complained of when the Scotch vessels come upon the Irish coast, advantage is taken of the hovering act to oblige them to enter, (though not to land,) and pay the Irish duty for salt. The British
duties

duties are drawn back on the salt used in the fisheries, but the Irish are not; the latter are not considerable, being only 12s. per ton on salt imported; yet the Irish think it hard the British vessels should have this advantage of them on their own coast. Perhaps it may be adviseable for Ireland to allow a drawback of the duty on all salt used in the fisheries: this may give an opening to some fraud, and the revenue may suffer a little; but even less than four pence per barrel (each barrel takes a bushel of salt) is a considerable and unnecessary weight to fall on the fishery in its infancy, and this would remove one difficulty between the Scotch and Irish fisheries. The Irish fisher, at present, is obliged to land the salt which is brought from Britain; for when he enters it outwards from thence, he engages in a bond for 6s. 8d. per cwt. defeasible, upon producing a certificate of its being landed in Ireland; and in order to get such certificate, he is obliged to unload all his salt, and re-ship it for the fishery; but the Scotch having entered theirs to be expended upon the curing of fish at sea, on their return to Great Britain,

tain, have an allowance of so much as they have wet, duty free, and have, therefore, no occasion for the Irish certificate. Ireland farther complains, that British herrings come into their home markets at 2s. and 8d. bounty on export from Britain, and only 1s. duty in Ireland, the British salt also being without duty. It should be observed, that a nominal drawback of the whole duties in Scotland does not remove all expence; the business of bonds and certificates causes trouble and delay; some gratuities must be given; attendance and time are expence, which is not drawn back, and probably amount to no small part of the Irish duty on salt*.

The north-western fishery of Ireland although so promising, is yet in a very mean

* Ireland is allowed to export from Great Britain Rock Salt, duty free, to be boiled down and refined there; that privilege is denied to all Great Britain except to the Ports Swansey, Hollyhead, and Lawn Marsh, and within ten computed miles of the Salt Pitts. By which restriction it is said Ireland is enabled to supply the west coast of Great Britain with smuggled salt, at a reasonable rate, to the great prejudice of the Revenue.

state;

state; there is little to mention, except what nature has done; and surely, all things considered, she has done as much for Ireland as for any part of Europe. We learn that in other parts the herring is an uncertain fish, but we have not heard that it ever entirely failed on this coast. Unfavourable winds prevented the herrings from embaying sufficiently early the last season, to enable Ireland to furnish the usual quantity for the West Indies, consequently the price rose to 4*l.* per barrel in those islands. It is probable the fishermen too soon despond of finding fish; and sometimes the disappointment happens through want of sufficiency of buoy rope: an incident of last year seemed to confirm it. The three first nets or dippings were proved twice, and only straggling herrings found in them; on proving them a third time, there was the same appearance, but on taking in the nets to change ground, it was found the buoy of the center net was burst, by which it sunk five feet of the line; upon drawing it into the boat it was full of herrings. From this circumstance it is conjectured, that a want of a sufficiency

sufficiency of buoy rope is the reason country fishermen are so often unsuccessful, although immediately above the herrings.

Perhaps if the hint given by Mr. Pennant was followed on the coast of Ireland as well as of Scotland, it would be as useful a kind of bounty as could be offered by government, viz. each year to send out small vessels to make a thorough trial in every branch of the sea; they would undoubtedly find shoals in some of them, which, together with founding the banks and examining the coast might be performed by the sloops or cutters appointed to enforce the necessary regulations of the fisheries.

The destruction of the Scotch fishery has been in part attributed to the largeness of their nets: they were often so loaded with herrings that the nets could not be taken out of the water till the following day. This was the opinion of an intelligent person who had been engaged in the Scotch fishery thirty years.

If the Dublin society should think proper to print the best rules and observations on

the subject that can be collected, and disperse them among those concerned, and the fishermen, possibly a better mode will be sooner introduced in the place of bad habits and ignorant prejudice, and the fishery may sooner arrive at perfection. At present the Irish method of curing fish is extremely slovenly. Herrings caught and cured by the Scots in the same seas, are much preferred and sell at a considerably higher price in the Irish market. No small part of the herrings exported from Cork are imported from Scotland, although they are not intitled to any bounty on re-export, but the great bounties on export from Scotland enables them to go to Cork to be sent abroad notwithstanding that disadvantage. The superiority of the Scotch herrings over the Irish, arises principally from the latter being carried in bulk to Cork there to be barrelled. They are much hurt by the pressure in the package and by their not being gutted till they arrive. They should barrel at or near the fishery.

There are not at present the necessary buildings and conveniences on the coast,
Holes

Holes are dug in the earth, in which the fish is salted, then covered with earth, and the people are surpris'd to find that snow and rain hurt them in that state. The want of proper establishments and stores has subjected the fisheries of Ireland to great inconveniences; in particular it has been severely felt in the enormous price of salt occasionally when the take of fish was great. In 1771 salt was at 10*l.* 10*s.* per ton. The ordinary price is about 3*l.* 10*s.* Several persons have now set up salt works on the coast. The salt is weaker than the English because it is not so much boiled. This is among many articles in which Britain must always have an advantage through her greater abundance of coal.

Besides stores on the coast, inspectors are wanted, to see the herrings properly cured and made up; and there should be regulated packers as in Holland.

The principal herring fishery of Ireland is from Lough Swilly to Broad Haven. It has been recommended to establish a store at Kil-

leybeggs, on account of its being the most commodious harbour for the early fishery : certain intelligence of the southerly fishery, viz. Ballywell, Sligo bay, Killalla, Black Rock and Broad Haven, is to be got there, or at Donegal. Besides there are about that harbour a number of small creeks and bays, viz. M'Swine's bay, Portnacross and Tillon, into which the herrings generally set and where boats can run in easy weather. However the Rosses seem best calculated to be the head quarters or chief store ; and in case red-herring houses should be erected, the fish there is larger and of course better adapted for that purpose *. They have likewise the advantage of an easier communication with Britain for the importation of salt and wood. The situation too is convenient for the Dernfernachy and Lough-Swilly fisheries. In every respect the Rosses must answer best for a general store to collect all the fish got on either side.

The making of oil from the summer fish should be encouraged, and also from the guts

* There is only one red herring house in the kingdom, which was built last summer.

of herrings as well as from seals, dog-fish, sun-fish, &c. &c.

The herring fishery was at its height before the Newfoundland fishery became considerable. The former has since decreased, but we are told those fisheries have not in the least interfered with each other, and that the herring fishery has not been prejudiced by that of Newfoundland. The assertion is contrary to reason. The great relaxation as to lent-keeping in Europe must also have diminished the demand for herrings; and, perhaps, every country, to a certain degree, supplies itself with more fish than formerly. From these circumstances it may be thought the foreign markets for herrings can never be raised to what they were, or to what the Dutch enjoyed. No new market has occurred since the high prosperity of that fishery, except the West Indian, for which, in the year ending 25th March, 1783, Ireland exported 35,960 barrels.

This kind of examination is necessary for the purpose of discovering to what extent markets can be expected, and of avoiding the
loss

loss and disappointment of speculating too far in this fishery. However, Ireland having the advantage of all other countries in the herring branch of the fisheries, with proper exertions, might surpass them in it; and then she need not fear the want of a sufficient market.

The increase of the fishery appears from the following account :

Average annual quantity of herrings exported from Ireland for four years, ending 25 March, 1767, 4672 barrels.

Average annual quantity of herrings imported into Ireland, for the same years, 32,824 barrels.

Average annual quantity of herrings exported from Ireland, for four years, ending 25 March, 1783, 24,273 barrels.

Average annual quantity of herrings imported into Ireland, for the same years, 12,277 barrels.

As the latter were years of war, the increase of exportation is more extraordinary.

It

It is remarkable, that the imports and exports of the two periods, collectively taken, and compared, are nearly equal.

W H A L E F I S H E R Y.

There are, undoubtedly, whales off the north and north west coast of Ireland, which come close in shore. The spermaceti whale may be found at some distance from the coast. The bone whale follows the herrings into the bays, and one of the *signs* of fish, as the fishermen phrase it, is the whale. Some years ago 1000*l.* was given by the parliament of Ireland, for the purpose of carrying on this fishery. The person to whom it was granted killed seven whales, but has not since pursued that fishery. Its practicability on that coast is, however, firmly asserted, and that Ireland, at least, might supply her own demand with the produce of the whale, and thereby keep a considerable sum of money at home. Ireland certainly has some advantage in this fishery; and since the act of the 15th of the present reign, which opens the ports of Great Britain for whale fins and blubber,

blubber, and oil also of all creatures living in the sea, to all the subjects of his Majesty's European dominions, there can now be no doubt of a market, and her own consumption of oil is greatly increased. But if the attempt to lower the duties on oil from the American States should succeed, the interest of the empire at large will be extremely prejudiced: a proposal more mischievous to our fisheries, and consequently to the British marine, cannot be made.

THE WHITE OR COD FISHERY.

The abundance of cod, ling, and hake, on the coast of Ireland, is well known; there are banks constantly frequented by white fish, which is said to be as good, and even larger than what is taken at Newfoundland*. But it has been said there are other banks off the north west of Ireland and Scotland, mentioned also by Sir William Monson, and sup-

* A Company of merchants engaged in the White fishery a few years ago: after two or three years they relinquished the pursuit, having lost a considerable proportion of their-capital.

posed by some to be a part of a chain which extends to those at Newfoundland; others think they extend towards Cape Farewell, off Greenland. In 1783, Captain Ellifson, in the *Ariadne*, went in search of these banks. The most accurate soundings were taken to ascertain the extent, but no traces of them were found, perhaps the search was not extended far enough. But as the examination was made under the direction of the Lord Lieutenant, it is probable that all the information that could be obtained was given, to guide and assist the undertaking.

FISH imported into Ireland.

		Year 1711	Year 1734	Year 1738	Year 1740	An average of 7 years ending 25th March, 1762.
Anchovies	Barrels.	309	776	619	401 $\frac{1}{2}$	564
Cod	C. q. No.	$\frac{1}{2}$	300 $\frac{1}{2}$	112 $\frac{3}{4}$	678	427 2 24
Cod	Barrels.	14	15	—	22	33
Hake	C. q. No.	—	—	—	—	36 3
Herrings	Barrels.	1702 $\frac{1}{2}$	764 $\frac{1}{4}$	7418	4081	25603
Ling	C. q. No.	—	39 $\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{3}{4}$	214
Mackerel	Barrels.	—	—	—	—	18
Pilchards	Hogfheads	—	—	—	—	69
Salmon	Tons.	13 $\frac{2}{3}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1	6 $\frac{1}{6}$	21
Stock	C. q. No.	—	—	—	3 $\frac{2}{3}$	55 1 18
Sturgeon	Kegs.	49	355	188	179	192

FISH exported from Ireland.

		Year 1711	Year 1734	Year 1738.	Year 1740	An average of 7 years ending 25 March, 1762.
Cod	Barrels.	141	2	—	—	32
Cod	C. q. No.	—	—	—	—	6
Hake	Ditto.	1859 2	470 2	1532	1245	1163
Herrings	Barrels.	6674	21057	7743 $\frac{3}{4}$	258 $\frac{1}{2}$	5838
Ling	C. q. No.	27	—	1	—	77 7
Mackerel	Barrels.	—	20	110	293	671
Pilchards	Hogfheads	—	2594 $\frac{3}{4}$	2754	366	$\frac{1}{2}$
Salmon	Tons.	920	545	513 $\frac{1}{3}$	383 $\frac{2}{3}$	489
Dried	C. q. No.	59 16	—	—	—	1 0 14

Total of Fish exported from Ireland to all Parts, the year ending the 25th March, 1783.	Ditto imported into Ireland for the same Year.
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Cod	Barrels.	272	Anchovies	Barrels.	294
Cod	C. q. No.	5	Cod	C. q. No.	531 5
Eels	Barrels.	1 $\frac{1}{3}$	Herrings	Barrels.	4324
Hake	C. q. No.	1367 3 10	Ling	C. q. No.	281 1 5
Herrings	Barrels.	48481 $\frac{1}{2}$	Oysters	Gallons.	5
Ling	C. q. No.	170	Salmon *	Tons trs.	47 4
Salmon	Tons trs.	253 $\frac{2}{5}$	Sturgeon	Kegs.	33

* The importation of salmon was probably accidental.

OIL exported from Ireland in the year, ending 25th March, 1783.

	Hogheads.	Gallons.
Train oil, - - -	1	7

OIL imported into Ireland the same year.

	Gallons.
Linfeed, - - -	25,311 $\frac{1}{2}$
Seville, - - -	29,475 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sweet, - - -	97,95 $\frac{23}{36}$
Train, - - -	76,595 $\frac{33}{60}$

WOOLLEN MANUFACTURE.

The woollen manufacture of Ireland is undoubtedly very considerable, and now produces more than her fisheries ; but it will not be carried to an extent much greater than at present, as has been already remarked on the subject of protecting duties. By sacrificing greater advantages than could be attained through a forced increase of the manufacture, more wool might be raised, and more cloth might be made, but the woollen is not likely to be the principal manufacture of Ireland for export.

It is curious to observe the illiberal arts and injudicious exertions of oppression, employed by one country to depress and prevent the exportation of the woollen manufacture of the other; and the equally ignorant disposition of Ireland, almost constantly during this century, to impute her poverty and inability of growing rich, to the want of a woollen export trade, while it is probable that since the revolution she barely grew wool enough to cloath her own inhabitants. This has been partly shewn by comparing, under the article of protecting duties, the late import of woollens with the export of wool and yarn; for we know that if wool is now smuggled from Ireland, the quantity is trifling. The home market is, and has been so high for a considerable time, that no foreign market can afford to pay the additional expence of smuggling; which has been computed at 6d. per lb: and it is generally understood that when wool is above 10s. per stone in that country, it will not answer to smuggle it.

Some manufactures of wool existed in Ireland previous to the reign of James the First, but

but they were not considerable. They then made some progress, and in the succeeding reign, although Lord Strafford discouraged them*. The civil war which followed, almost

* AN EXTRACT from Lord Deputy STRAFFORD'S LETTER to CHRISTOPHER WANDERFORD, giving an Account of the Report he made to the KING and COUNCIL, dated London, July the 25th, 1636.

That there was little or no manufacture amongst them, but some small beginnings towards a clothing trade, which I had, and so should still discourage all I could, unless otherwise directed by his Majesty and their Lordships; in regard it would trench not only upon the clothings of England, being our staple commodity, so as if they should manufacture their own wools, which grew to very great quantities. We should not only lose the profit we made now by in-draping their wools, but his Majesty lose extremely by his customs; and in conclusion it might be feared, they would beat us out of the trade itself, by underselling us, which they were well able to do. Yet have I endeavoured another way to set them on work, and that is by bringing in the making and trade of linen cloth; the rather in regard the women are all naturally bred to spinning; that the Irish earth is apt for bearing of flax; and that this manufacture would be in conclusion rather a benefit than other to this kingdom: I have, therefore, sent for the flax seed into Holland, being of a better sort than we have,

and

most annihilated every manufacture in Ireland, and that country which had so abounded in cattle and provisions, was after Cromwell's *settlement* of it, obliged to import provisions from Wales *. However it was sufficiently recovered soon after the Restoration to alarm the grazing counties of England, and in the year 1666, the importation of live cattle, sheep, swine, &c. from Ireland was prohibited. The principle of the bill was bad in every respect, but it proved an excellent law for her. It was represented that the rents of England had fallen one fifth through the public *nuisance*, as it was termed, of importing cat-

and sown this year a thousand pounds of it (finding by some I sowed the last year, that it takes there very well.) I have sent for workmen out of the Low Countries and South of France, and set up already 6 or 7 looms; which, if please God to bless us this year, I trust so to invite them to follow it, when they see the great profit arising thereby as that they shall generally take and employ themselves that way, which if they do, I am confident it will prove a mighty business.

* Sir William Petty, states the cattle and stock of Ireland to be worth above four millions in 1641, and that the whole cattle in Ireland was not worth 500,000l. in 1652.

tle

tle from Ireland, although the value of those imported the years previous to the law was not above 132,000*l*. The hides, tallow, and freight whereof, were worth half that sum. Observe how it answered the narrow views of England. Before that time great numbers of young cattle were sent to England: little butter, scarce any beef, hides, or tallow, were exported; and the money received for the cattle was paid for English commodities. Ireland turned to sheep, to the dairy, and fattening of cattle, and to tillage, and she shortly exported much beef and butter, and has since supplanted England in those beneficial branches of trade. She was forced to seek a foreign market; and England had no more than a fourth of her trade, although before that time she had almost the whole of it. The woollen manufacture of Ireland * towards the end of that

* A report of the board of trade made in the year 1697 gives the following account of the Irish woollen manufactures.

New Draperies.		Old Draperies.		Frize.
Years.	Pieces.	Pieces.		Yards.
1665 ———	224 ———	32 ———		444,381
1687 ———	11,360 ———	103 ———		1,129,716
1696 ———	4,413 ———	34 $\frac{1}{2}$ ———		104,167

century,

century, began to recover, and England (not content with her extraordinary experiment in respect to cattle) immediately supposed her own manufacture ruined, and a narrow spirit which was more excusable in the manufactures, because they seemed in a degree interested, induced the legislature to pass an act in 1699 prohibiting the exportation of woollen manufactures from Ireland to any other places but the few wool ports in England, where they were liable to duties which amounted to a prohibition.

And, observe again, the mistake of England. The woollen manufacturers of Ireland, who, or their ancestors, came chiefly from England *, now emigrated from Ireland; certainly, however, in smaller numbers than were at the time represented. In their resentment and necessities many of the Protestants

* About the year 1664, some clothiers from the West of England settled in Dublin, and established the manufacture, which still continues there. It is said, nearly at the same time, sixty Dutch families of clothiers settled at Limerick. Some English clothiers settled also at Cork and Kinsale. Some French introduced the Drugget manufacture at Waterford; and, in 1675, some London merchants set up a woollen manufacture at Clonmell.

moved to Germany, many of the Roman Catholics to Spain, and others of each description to France, where they received encouragement, and shewed the way how our wool might be smuggled from both islands. The foundation of manufactures were laid, or they were promoted, highly to the prejudice of England; and thus some return was made for the manufactures established in the British dominions by the equally wise edict of Nantz.

But the account of the woollen manufactures exported from Ireland, in 1698, the year preceding the prohibition, will best shew the wantonness of that oppressive measure.

		England	Scotland	Elsewhere.
Apparel	Value	102 3 4	—	517 19
Drapery	{ New Pieces	601	2128	20556½
	{ Old Pieces	1¼	29¾	250½
Frize	Yards	127601	1355	537945
Hats	Number	479	1125	2866
Rugs	Number	30	10	418
Stockings	{ Wol. doz. pair	745	5	7002
	{ Wor. doz. pair	16 9	—	158 8

For the better understanding of this account, it is necessary to know, that the only article in it, of which the amount is considerable, namely frizes, was not made in England*.

U

That

* It is extraordinary how much the export of frize from Ireland is reduced. The quantity lately exported from Ireland is trifling.

That the frizes and stockings exported the preceding year, 1697, together, amounted to 14,625*l.* 12*s**. and the old and new drapery, which alone interfered with the English manufacture, amounted only to 8988*l.* 17*s.* 6*d*†. In 1698, 13,480 stones of yarn and 217,678 stones of wool were sent to England, which was 9,812 stones of yarn more than in 1687, the year of greatest export; and 38,913 stones of wool less ‡. In the above-mentioned year of the greatest export, viz. 1687, the value of all the woollen manufactures exported, did not exceed 70,521*l.* 14*s.* and of that sum the

1781, 1779 yards, mostly to America.

1782, 800 ditto, all to America.

1783, 784 ditto: 84 to America, 700 to Flanders, but the consumption of the inhabitants is probably increased. It is remarkable, that it was the principal woollen manufacture of Ireland, when her wool was much finer than it is now. The large part of the frizes that came to England were dressed, and receiving a great degree of manufacture, afforded a considerable profit to this country.

* This calculation is taken from J. Smith on Wool: it appears very low.

† Total of woollen manufactures exported that year, 23614*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.* accounting the wool whereof to be one fourth, the value of the labour was about 18,000*l.*

‡ J. Smith on Wool.

frizes

frizes amounted to 56,485 l. 16 s. coarse stockings, 2520 l. 18 s. Old and new draperies did not exceed 11,514 l. 10 s. It seems, from the custom-house accounts, that Ireland had not recovered above one third of the woollen trade she had before the war of the Revolution, and it is remarkable, that in the above year, 1687, she sent more wool and yarn to England than in any of the preceding years, viz. of yarn, at 18 lbs. to the stone, 3668 stones, of wool, 256,592 stones.

England seems to have been blind as to a very obvious consequence of prohibiting the exportation of woollens from Ireland, namely, that it would lead her to manufacture her wool into a great variety of articles for her own consumption, which she then took from England, and reduce her import of English manufactures; whereas the frizes, the then principal manufacture of Ireland, did not interfere with any branch of her woollens.

It had the consequence of lessening the import from England, although not for the years immediately following. In 1700, were imported from Britain,

	Yards.	Value.
Old drapery,	12,119 $\frac{1}{2}$	9,014l. 12s. 6d.
New drapery,	24,522	2,043l. 10s. 0d.

But, in 1706*, we find the quantity imported from England reduced to less than half of the broad cloth, and to about two thirds of the narrow.

	Yards.	Value.
Old drapery,	5514 $\frac{1}{2}$	4,135l. 17s. 6d.
New drapery,	15,308 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,913l. 11s. 3d.

The quantity of wool imported into England from Ireland, in 1700, was 336,292 stones, at 18lbs. Yarn, the same year, 26,617 stones. But the prohibition having promoted the smuggling of wool, the peace of

* Some years after, the quantity imported gradually increased with the population and riches of the country, and in 1714 it exceeded the importations previous to the prohibition. About that time also, it should be observed, the smuggling of wool increased, in consequence of the low price of wool at home. One mode of smuggling was by pressing the wool very close in barrels or casks with screws; and placing a little butter or beef at top, it was sent abroad as either of the last: and as it was the interest of the country to export it, although the custom-house officer knew the deceit, he did not dare to detect it. Tobacco has been smuggled in the same manner.

Utrecht

Utrecht rendered that business more easy, the intercourse with France was greater, and in the year 1714, the quantity of wool imported into England from Ireland, was diminished to 147,153 stones*, and it has since continued to decrease to the small quantity now exported; which will be mentioned hereafter.

The quantity of woollen yarn imported into England from Ireland, had increased from 26,617 stones in 1700, to 91,854 stones, in 1729, the year previous to the alteration of the duty on export from Ireland. Since that time the duties were entirely taken off in England, by the 12 and 26 Geo. 2. from

* The quantity of yarn exported from Ireland to England, in 1714, was 58,147 stones, at 18lbs.

† But this was not proposed in favour of Ireland. It was not much better than a job in favour of the English manufacturers, whose interest it was not to diminish the quantity of Irish wool, though their wish was totally to destroy the Irish manufacture, and (notwithstanding the monopoly that was already given to them of English wool) it was thought reasonable that the wool-growers of England should submit to this additional depreciation of that article. This law, however, tended to lessen the smuggling of wool from Ireland to foreign countries, at the same time that it lowered the price, (which was, perhaps, already too low) in England.

woollen

woollen and worsted yarn imported from Ireland. To which, and the increased demand for worsted yarn from Manchester, and the circumstance that spinning is much cheaper in Ireland than in England* being added, the increased export of yarn which took place, may be imputed. The value of wool was raised very considerably above the price in England, by the demands of the merchant, who was enabled to give an extraordinary price, being reimbursed through the low price of spinning. Smuggling of wool, of course, decreased, and has for many years almost ceased; and here it may be remarked, that the depreciation of wool in any country, below its natural value, by prohibitions or monopolies, encourages smuggling more than the particular want of it in other countries,

On an average of five years, ending 1768, the quantity of woollen and worsted yarn exported was 160,295 stones, and of wool 25,284 stones. But latterly the quantity has

* Viz. in Ireland, two pence-halfpenny and three pence. In England, at five pence and six pence. Other estimates say at nine pence per lb. for spinning in England; five pence in Ireland,

decreased

decreased very much; principally from the increase of the woollen manufacture in Ireland, the increase of the people, and consequently increased home consumption; and some add that the corn bounties and increase of tillage has diminished the number of sheep. Export of woollen and worsted yarn on an average of five years ending 25th March 1783, 84,255 stones, and of wool 2435 stones.

The quantity of wool exported from Ireland to England at different periods has been mentioned down to 1714, and of woollen and worsted yarn down to 1729. The quantity of wool exported from Ireland to England that year was 38,667 stones at 18lb. and the quantity imported the same year of

Old drapery from England,
23,399½ yards, value 18,299l. 8s. od.

Old drapery from Scotland,
13 yards, value 9l. 15s. od.

New drapery from England,
35,521 yards, value 3,552l. 2s. od.

New drapery from Scotland,
384 yards, value 38l. 8s. od.

From

From that year the importation of draperies decreased very considerably, and in the year 1737 it was less than half, viz.

Old drapery from Great Britain,
9626½ yards, value 6497l. 17s. 9d.

New drapery from Great Britain,
17569½ yards, value 2635l. 8s. 0d.

For which the writer of these observations cannot account, unless by the impoverishment and distress arising from the scarcity of corn in the years 1728 and 1729. It appeared in the latter year, that corn had been imported in eighteen months to the amount of 274,000l. a vast sum at that time, considering the state of the country. Yet in 1740 and 1741, years also of scarcity, the importation of draperies had increased, viz.

Old drapery, in

1740	1741	1742 and 1743	
Yards.	Yards.	Yards.	Yards.
16,714.	12,918.	22,971.	14,582.

New

New drapery,

39,064. 42,504. 53,364. 65,880 *.

But from that time the importation began to increase, and soon very rapidly and progressively till the greatest import took place in 1777, viz.

Old drapery,

381,330 yards, value 266,931l.

New drapery,

731, 819 $\frac{1}{2}$ yards, value 91,477l. 8s. 4d.

But the average of five years ending 1777 was only,

Old drapery,

289,053 $\frac{1}{4}$ yards, value 202,337l. 6s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

New drapery,

544,493 $\frac{1}{2}$ yards, value 68,061l. 13s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

In consequence of non-importation agreements, and other circumstances, the importation suddenly and greatly fell.

* Average export of woollen yarn for five years ending 1743, 14799 stones. Ditto of worsted or bay yarn 64,983 stones.

Old drapery imported in

1779

1780

176,196 yards.

64,346 yards.

New drapery,

270,839 yards.

159,428 yards.

But in the following years the importation of old drapery rose above the average of former years, and amends were made for non-importations, as was the case in America on like occasions. The new draperies did not rise to the quantities imported in 1774, 1775, 1776, 1777, and 1778; but it may be accounted for by the increase of that manufacture in Ireland.

Old drapery imported from Great Britain in

1781,

1782,

and

1783.

326,578 yds.

362,824 yds.

371,871 yds.

New drapery,

433,198 yds.

547,336 yds.

420,415 yds.

It is rather to be wished than expected, that the reflections which are naturally suggested by such a detail, may tend to the suppression of narrow and absurd notions in the legislative regulations of trade; but it was principally intended,

intended, with the details given on the subject of protecting duties, to evince the small probability that Ireland, under a great increase of inhabitants, an increased tillage, and probable decrease of sheep, is likely to prejudice the British manufacture by diminishing her demand for English woollens, or by carrying her woollen manufacture to a much greater extent, or exporting much greater quantities than she has already done. It will require great improvements in the whole system of agriculture, and the labour and experience of many years, before she can considerably increase her sheep without decreasing her tillage, which is of much more consequence to her. If she extends her manufacture much farther, it must be done by an entire revolution in the smuggling line, and the cheap wools of England must be introduced into Ireland; but the expence of smuggling, or even of a qualified importation from England, with all the charges attendant on it, would make the article so dear, that Ireland could not vie with the English manufacture, especially in the coarser fabrics, where the raw

material bears a greater proportion of the value than in the finer.

As to the quality of Irish wool, it is certainly much decreased in fineness; but the increased quantity more than compensates*. Sir William Petty mentions the fleece to weigh about two pounds, and he supposes that there were then in Ireland four millions of sheep, and this was probably about the time of the act against the importation of Irish

* The writer of these observations can say, from experience, that increased quantity more than compensates for quality. His flock consisting of above 1000 sheep, was originally from the south downs of Suffex. It was crossed ten years ago with one of Mr. Bakewell's rams, whose wool was by no means of the coarsest or longest kind. The fleeces of the flock were increased from an average of $2\frac{1}{4}$ lb. which sold for 9d. per lb. to full 5lb. which sold for 8d. at the time wool was cheapest. The fleeces have returned towards their former weight; they average about $2\frac{3}{4}$ lb. It sold in the year 1784, at ten pence per lb. only, although the price of fine wool is higher than it was a few years ago, and although some of the fleeces were so fine as to weigh only one pound five ounces. It is clear, then, that five pounds of coarse wool at 8d. answers better than $2\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. at 10d.; and in general, what is most beneficial to the individual in matters of this kind, is best for the country.

cattle.

cattle. It is said Ireland produced excellent clothing wool the last century ; but there are only three counties in that kingdom that now furnish any quantity of that kind, or even coarse, proper for clothing ; (Clare furnishes the best) and the quantity produced, bears no proportion to the quantity of coarse cloth consumed in Ireland : there must, therefore, be a balance against one of the woollen manufactures of that country.

The Irish fleeces, instead of 2lb. are now double, or near treble that weight. Mr. Young's examination of that point is very satisfactory ; and he, from the minutes made on his Tour of Ireland, states the average weight of the fleece to be 5lb.

As to the price of wool being too high, it may be remarked, that notwithstanding this supposed extraordinary value, the quantity of sheep is said to decrease in Ireland, and, undoubtedly, would decrease much more if the price was as low as in England. A prohibition of the export of wool and yarn for the sake of lowering the price of wool to assist
the

the manufacturer, would, probably, diminish the price, and much diminish the number of sheep; but, in the end, from the depreciation of the price, would rise again in consequence of the decrease of sheep; and considering the higher price of wool in Ireland than in England, it is probable there is a redundancy of the kind * that goes to the latter, that it is of a sort for which there is not as yet a full demand; but as soon as the manufacture arises or increases, a demand will stop the exportation. Until the manufacturers are more industrious, and consequently can afford to live better and consume more meat, sheep, when wool is low, will not answer as well as in England, where the price of mutton is much higher, and makes it answer to the farmer to raise sheep when the price of wool would not. But it does not appear that wool is at an unnatural price in Ireland; it is dearer than it was when there was little demand from spinners, and when the low price made it an object to

* The inconsiderable quantity exported appears in the table, No. 1, and that, on an average, it does not exceed in value 1000*l.* yearly.

smuggle. It is dearer than the wool of England, of which a monopoly is given to the manufacturers; but comparatively with the wool of other countries, it is cheap.

Barely to state the price of wool at different periods, only misleads; and those who wish to acquire useful information on that subject, must examine into the circumstances of each time, when the price is mentioned.

We are told that the wool of Belton, in Lincolnshire, was 24s. per todd in 1642; that English wool in general was 15l. the pack, of 240lb., in 1647, when the exportation was first prohibited; and ordinary wool 12d. per lb. in 1651; that the same sort of wool which was bought for 15l. in 1647, was, in 1677, sold for 12l. It is necessary to recollect, that in 1647, the devastation of the civil war had greatly diminished the quantity of sheep in England. In 1677, wool which sold for 16d. and 18d. per lb. during the war, was bought at 12d. and other accounts say, even so low as 4d. or 5d. per lb. and 3l. 10s. per pack; in 1680, it was said, wool had fallen from 30s. and

and 40s. to 12 and 13s. the todd; in 1697, wool fell from 12, 14, and 16l. per pack to 11l.; in 1702, to 7l. 10s.; and in 1703, rose to 12 and 14l.; in 1709, it was at 9l.; in 1711, it was at 18s. per todd; in 1717 and 1718, wool bore a higher price than for near thirty years; and soon after, it is to be regretted, that the English woollen manufacture did not derive its great prosperity from any other cause than the destructive plague at Marfeilles. In 1737, long wool was less than 6d. per lb. and in 1739 at 4l. 10s. per pack; in 1743*, it advanced from 12s. to 28s. per todd, supposed to be owing to a great demand from France; in 1750, it rose still higher, and fell again on the import of Irish wool and yarn into all the ports. English wool, which sold at Amsterdam in 1751 at 37s. fell, in two years to 1l. 1s. and 1l. 5s. viz. 1753. In

* Price of wool per todd from the same farm. Smith's Memoirs of Wool.

				£.	s.	d.
1718,	—	—	—	1	1	0
1719,	—	—	—	1	0	6
1738,	—	—	—	0	13	6
1739,	—	—	—	0	13	0
1743,	—	—	—	0	19	6

1758,

1758, it rose again; in 1768 it fell; it was still lower in 1770, and has since risen, but the price of long or combing wool fell from 18s. and 6d. in 1776, to 9s. in 1781. In short, that the price has often been below what it ought to be, will be generally allowed, and the causes of the variations are, in general, clearly imputable to war, prohibitions, demands from abroad, and admissions of wool and yarn from Ireland, rather than to the state of the woollen trade. Those who wish for a greater detail on this subject, previous to 1750, will consult Smith's Memoirs of Wool. The quality of wool varies so much in England, that it is extremely difficult to give a comparative view or average price. The following account is the best that offers at present, the computation was made in 1779:

Prices of WOOL in different Parts of
England, per lb. weight.

Norfolk, at	-	-	-	-	s. d.
					0 6½

S U S S E X.

South Down wool weighs about 2lb. and $\frac{1}{2}$ the
fleece on an average - - - 0 9

N. B. The finest sells, some years, at near 15d. per lb.

Y

KENT

K E N T.

In West Kent, South Down sheep's wool	-	o	7
The horned west country sheep brought into			
West Kent, weighs about $3\frac{1}{2}$ lb. the fleece	-	o	6
In East Kent, South Down sheep's wool	-	-	o $5\frac{1}{2}$
Romney Marsh (large)	-	-	o 5
West-country sheep	-	-	o $4\frac{1}{2}$

L I N C O L N S H I R E.

Long Lincolnshire weighs about $9\frac{1}{2}$ lb. the fleece	o	6
Lincoln Heath wool weighs about $3\frac{1}{2}$ lb. ditto	-	o 5

N O T T I N G H A M S H I R E.

Fallow Field weighs about 4lb. the fleece	-	o	5
Forest weighs about 2lb. the fleece	-	-	o $7\frac{3}{4}$

Y O R K S H I R E.

At Halifax, as sold by Wool Staplers (little Wool is grow
in that Part of Yorkshire.) The second column is the
Price in 1779; the first is the Value about a Year before.

	s.	d.		s.	d.
Low-price combing wool	-	o $5\frac{1}{2}$	-	-	o $3\frac{1}{2}$
Hog and weather wool mixed	o	$9\frac{1}{4}$	-	-	o 7
Superfine clothing	-	-	1 7	-	-
Second ditto	-	-	1 2	-	-
Third ditto	-	-	o 8	-	-
Fourth ditto	-	-	o 6	-	-





























Inclosures and artificial graffes have introduced
large sheep, and have, in some parts of Eng-
land, diminished the quantity of fine wool;
this

this is the case in parts of Shropshire. The finest wool of that country is at Morf near Bridgnorth, and at the Wrekin; the fleece is about 1lb. and an half. This year, 1784, it sold at 24s. per stone of 14lb. sometimes it is as low as 18s. a guinea, or 1s. and 6d. per lb. is the average. It is said to be as good as any in England, except that of Ross in Herefordshire, which rises as high as 2s. 6d. per lb. The wool staplers at Shrewsbury sort their wool into nine parts, from 6d. to 2s. 2d. per lb. all for clothing, the 6d. per lb. for lifting or edging; but the introduction of artificial grasses has not diminished the fine flocks on the South Downs of Suffex, notwithstanding more of the Downs are plowed than were formerly. Artificial grasses, rape, turneps, and other improvements in husbandry, enable the farmers to keep larger flocks. The staple, perhaps, is not quite so fine as it was, in consequence of the sheep's living on coarser food, but the best wools sell some years as high as 40s. per tod of 32lb.

As to the price of wool in Ireland, we are told, that the medium price from 1703 to

1729, was 6s. 6d. per stone; also that Irish wool and yarn, on a medium of eight years, ending 1782, was worth 10s. and 4d. per stone; and that fine wools in Ireland, in the year 1743, sold for 16s per. stone, the medium 12s. which was above the medium of English.

Middle price of Wool, in the Fleece, in Ireland.

		Irish, per stone of 16lb.				
		s.	d.		s.	d.
1770,	from	14	0	to	15	0
1771,		14	6		15	6
1772,		15	0		16	0
1773,		15	0		16	0
1774,		14	0		16	0
1775,		16	0		17	0
1776,		17	0		18	0
1777,		17	6		18	6
1778,		10	6		11	6
1779,		10	0		11	0
1780,		10	6		11	6
1781,		11	0		12	0
1782,		10	0		11	0
1783,		11	6		12	6
1784,		11	6		12	6

The fall in 1778 was owing to the stagnation of credit, and to the demand of bay yarn from England being decreased.

But

But the friends of the woollen fabrics of Ireland, instead of inflaming and disturbing the manufacturers with extravagant notions and mischievous expectations of protecting duties, would do more service by shewing the advantage of carrying their art to higher perfection. Improvements in the several manufactures might do much for them, but prohibitions of British would debase Irish manufacture; the present imperfect modes would be confirmed, the progress towards English perfection would be checked, the manufacturer would be careless of his workmanship, thinking he had a monopoly of the market, strength would be given to combination. Yet those who can afford to wear fine and good cloth, would have it at any rate, nor will they be forced to wear imperfect manufactures; and, to prevent a contraband introduction, in some shape or other, of what is good, would be impossible. The only means of recommending the Irish manufacture, and of obtaining a sure market, at least at home, will be, by a greater attention to its excellence; the only certain and proper way of excluding English manufactures

tures from the Irish market will be by attaining an equality of perfection. It would insure, at least the home market, as far as the quality and quantity of wool would enable it to go. For the Irish manufacture is, in general, more hurt by the flovenliness of the work than by the price of the wool. Supposing the price of labour the same in both countries, the carriage of woollens through England, the freight, duties, and commission, surely are more than equal to the difference of price of wool; but as to the fine manufactures, in which Spanish wool alone, or chiefly, is used, they might have every advantage in Ireland as elsewhere. Indeed, at present, Ireland finds it convenient to import her Spanish wool through London, paying double freight and double commission; but that is no reason for laying prohibitory duties, as those proposed on every species of British clothes would prove; nor is it fair ground for non-importation agreements. In short, to lose time and exertions for any other extent of the manufacture than what is now pointed at, at least until there

is

is more of the material, does not appear very wise.

But the first step towards amendment should be by tempting the principal woollen manufacturers from the metropolis, the seat of licentiousness, drunkenness, disorder and expence, where the manufacturers are always liable to be made the idle tools of turbulent and interested men. No manufactures should be there, but those that immediately depend on varying taste, and should be under the eye of the shopkeepers. There is no change of fashion in the woollen manufactures that might not be attended to at a distance. By removing the manufacture of fine woollens from Dublin, it will be lightened of the extraordinary expence, dissipation, and irregularity of the capital, and of the bad effects of combinations, and the manufacturers will be saved the time and trouble of controuling the commercial interests of the kingdom. Why should they not be invited by advantages to the new city that has been deserted by the Genevans? The situation is good for trade, and it would not there
interfere

interfere with the linen manufacture; but there are many situations that would be good; any would be better than the present. It is desirable that it should not be in large cities, but in towns or large villages, not very far distant from each other. When the whole of a manufacture is brought together, combination is sure to be the consequence; and generally extraordinary numbers collected together raise the price of provisions beyond their level or natural price, and the country is not so generally benefited as when the people are more dispersed. The stile of the Yorkshire manufactures seems best for Ireland. They are mostly of wool the growth of the kingdom, and they are of that sort of fabric best adapted to the Irish trade.

It is very extraordinary that there should not be wool staplers in Ireland: and in this there appears a capital defect in the outset of the manufacture.

There are persons called wool merchants, who purchase from the grower; but, in general, they sell the wool again without sorting it. It is the wish and practice of the clothier

thier to buy in the fleece. He gains thereby, as he thinks the profit of the wool merchant and the opulent manufacturer oppresses the poorer clothier, by being able to purchase large quantities from the grower. He sells to him what is left, after taking what he wants for himself; but his oppression does not always answer to him. He is often embarrassed to get rid of the part he cannot use, which is not properly sorted for the poorer man, who, when he buys it, finds a variety of sorts not fit for his line of business, which become an incumbrance to him, and, in failure of sale, he is obliged to work it up himself, which throws him out of his line of business, or forces him to a mixture of wools, to the injury of his manufacture. It is a defect, that the same person should go through the whole process, from purchasing the wool from the grower to the finishing of the piece; the manufacture consisting of such variety of branches, all of which requiring great skill and attention, is more than the same person should undertake.

It appears from the Report of the Committee of the Irish Parliament, appointed

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last spring, to inquire into the state of manufactures, that sorted wool is nearly as dear again in Ireland as in England, and that there is not such disproportion in the prices of fleece wool. It appears from hence how much wool staplers in the same stile as in England are wanted in Ireland, who purchase the wool from the grower, and sort it into different parts or degrees of fineness to suit the different manufactures. The advantage of this is obvious, that the wool staplers can afford to sell it cheaper, and that the wool will be better prepared for the purpose wanted, and all of a sort. The poor manufacturer buys his small quantity on the same terms as the rich, and supplies his immediate want, without being incumbered with more than he has present occasion for. It is very essential that there should be well-regulated cloth halls for the sale of the goods, near which wool staplers generally reside, and the manufacturers are accommodated with wool without additional expence or loss of time, when they attend the cloth market.

Cloth halls in England are markets as well as repositories for cloth; and, indeed, for almost
all

all sorts of woollens, and are regulated as well for the advantage and dispatch of the seller as of the buyer, where the goods are sold by wholesale. If the manufacturer resides at a distance too great to attend the sale of his goods, he consigns them to one of the factors (of which there are many) who belong to the hall. They are persons of such property as to be able to advance to the manufacturer, if required, a sum of money at interest, upon the security of the goods deposited, which, when sold, they repay themselves, with the proper and stated charges and commission. Thus the poorer manufacturer is enabled to proceed with his business upon a very small capital; but such of the manufacturers as can wait the return of the sales, are subject only to the commission for selling. This is the case at Blackwell Hall in London, where few, if any, attend the sale of their own goods, the distance being too great for any manufacturing county; but at the Cloth halls of the towns in the manufacturing counties, as at Leeds, the manufacturers have the opportunity, and do always attend themselves; and there are stated days

and hours of sale, which are on the usual days of markets for provisions, &c. The halls in the country are mostly for the sale of rough cloth; the buyers or merchants are the dressers or finishers of those cloths; they receive commissions, and at the halls can get the assortment they want in a very short time. The goods are paid for in money or bills, after having undergone a close inspection (called perking) by hanging them up against the light; if too thin in any part, if there are defects of any kind, they are immediately seen, and stoppages are made from the manufacturer. The cloth becomes the property of the merchant, who, undoubtedly, finishes well for his own emolument.

How very advantageous such halls would be to the manufacturer, and to the rendering more perfect the manufacture of Ireland, is obvious. It seems essentially necessary to encourage the makers of rough cloth * to settle in proper places, and to oblige them,

* Rough-cloth markets in England are clothiers in the first stages of the business; they buy their wool from the stapler, manufacture it at their dwellings, and sell it at the

them, or make it their interest, to sell their cloth rough from the mill in the proper market,

the cloth halls when milled. They for the most part hold sufficient land to afford them maintenance for a cow and horse, and a garden for vegetables, which they till themselves. The whole family is engaged, and if they are not sufficient themselves, they hire servants to card, spin and weave. The use of a horse is to take their cloth to the mill, thence to the hall, and return with wool and marketing. As a small capital will set up a rough maker, so they are very numerous, and are dispersed through the country.

As every Rough maker has within his own family and under his own eye, the several operations of scribbling, spinning and weaving, and his return of profit depending upon the quality of his cloth when finished, it is to be presumed that he endeavours to bring it to the stage in which he sells it as perfect as he is able; as he lays himself out to make but one sort of cloth, in which his people are practised, he is more likely to succeed in making a good manufacture. And another inducement to ensure good work, is that his cloth must undergo a close inspection before it is paid for, and large deductions made for defects, or be returned upon his hands.

In those branches the children even of the family can find employment; they are initiated and kept to industry from their infancy; and as by this mode of doing business, all

ket, or cloth hall, which should be built in some considerable place, and certain privileges

all advantages which the manufacturers can afford centering within themselves, together with the helps from their piece of land; they work cheap, and find comforts which others are unacquainted with. And being thus dispersed throughout the country, they have not the same opportunity of assembling as those in towns or cities, to form combinations or regulations of their own, which are ever found to be the great bane to manufactures.

But in Ireland there are very few Rough-cloth makers professedly, a few in the country do occasionally send rough cloths to Dublin; but as the attendance of the sale is expensive and uncertain, the practice is discouraging. Clothiers in Dublin for the most part go through the whole process; they give out the wool, after they have prepared it, to a master or undertaking spinner, to whom he pays per skain for spinning. This person employs hands to work under him and undertakes for every one who will employ him; he receives a variety of work, some coarse some fine, upon which his hands being occasionally changed from one to another, causes an unevenness which is prejudicial to the manufacture, and as the undertaker's employment depends upon the quantity he gets done for little money, the scribbling branch (which is extremely material) is for the most part slighted. The clothier gets home the spinning, and then gives it out to an undertaking weaver, who is paid per yard according to the fineness. Those operation

leges might be granted, at least for a time. The Rough-cloth makers will settle in the neighbourhood, and that the manufacturers may not be discouraged from going to distant situations, as Ireland is fond of bounties on inland carriage, a small premium might be allowed on the carriage of all goods received at the hall according to the distance; something, perhaps, might be spared from the bounty on the inland carriage of corn. No mode appears so likely to extend the manufacture into the country, and prevent combination, as to induce persons who are skil-

rations being done out of the clothier's sight, and the undertakers not being persons of any property, and generally in strong combination, no recovery can be had for neglect or bad work in any of those branches, and the master clothier must receive it in whatever state they please to bring it home.

From this practice it may be conceived that neither cheap nor good manufacture can be obtained in the first stages or ground work of the business: nor will the work people in general admit of either machine or method to facilitate labour or amend the fabric. For twenty pounds a rough-cloth maker may set up with one loom, scribbling frame and cards, four or five spinning wheels and other necessary articles.

led in the first stages of the business, and will practise the most improved methods to carry on the manufacture, as in England, from the wool to the mill, and dispose of it in that state, to which a safe repository for their goods, and a certain and speedy return must be their inducement. This mode is also preferable, because a very small capital, viz. 20l. will set up a rough-cloth maker, and not less than 300l. will set up a clothier to go through the whole process, and that in a confined way: there is a certainty that one will become more general than the other, and also a certainty that the manufacture, by such means, would be better, because the emolument of the maker will depend on its quality, which must be better known in its rough state, than when disguised by dressing, fine drawing, and pressing. The persons who are the most numerous and most respective are employed in the scribbling, the spinning, and the weaving. By dispersing them throughout the country the knot will be broke, and in a short time, they would be brought to better practices. If rough-cloth halls were established, the merchants of Ire-

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land would be enabled, in a short time, to compleat their orders, which they cannot do at present either with convenience or with certainty of giving satisfaction. After they have received their orders, the goods are to be bespoke and waited for; which, when finished, may not be well manufactured; yet they are sent abroad; and even if they did not go out of the island, the manufacture is discredited.

Nothing can point out more clearly the advantage of regular stated places of sale than the Kilkenny fair for the frize trade, which, though distant from both buyer and seller, and attended with inconvenience to each, yet being a certain place of meeting for them, seldom fails to answer the expectations of both.

Machines of the best construction might be issued from these halls, and sold to the manufacturers, making the payment easy to them through the means of their factors.

As to the imperfection of the manufacture of Spanish or fine wool, Ireland can

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only blame herself. Till she could make sufficient for her own people, and such as they would wear, she had no pretensions to success at a foreign market. With proper management, she might make it as cheap and as perfect as England, as both countries import the raw material ; but she does neither at present, and particularly in the important branch of finishing, she is very deficient. She has much to do before she will rival her neighbours in this branch ; she must not depend too much on her advantages as to the price of provisions or price of labour, they are of much less consequence than habits of industry and intelligence in trade, and character, and correspondence, when foreign trade is in question.*

Her importations of Spanish wool have been unequal.

* It is supposed that the consumption of fine woollens has in part decreased in Ireland, from the same cause as in England, namely, the introduction of Manchester manufactures of cotton, which are worn as cloathing, and so generally for waistcoats and breeches.

Year

Year ending 25th March:
Cwt.

1774 — 210 — 48 of which only was imported from Spain, the rest from Britain.

1775 — 96 — 41 of which only was imported from Spain, the rest from Britain.

1776 — 328 — 155 of which only was imported from Spain, the rest from Britain.

And,

1783 — 261*, none from Spain, 5 from Flanders, the rest from Britain.

But the woollen manufacture of Ireland seems to be taking the most natural and best turn. The new drapery branch advances rapidly. It consumes the wool of the country. It is less difficult in many branches, and requires less skill than the superfine broad cloths. It has been already shewn that the importation of new drapery decreases, and

* 261 cwt. at $2\frac{1}{4}$ lb. to the yard, would make 12,992 yards. That is about the quantity used in a yard of English superfine, but it is a full allowance where only Spanish wool is used.

that the exportation is become very considerable †.

The amount of the consumption of woollens in Ireland we cannot know, but it is very great; and, perhaps, no country whatever, in proportion to its number of inhabitants, consumes so much. The lower ranks are covered with the clumsiest woollen drapery, and although the material may not be fine, there is abundance of it. Besides coat and waistcoat, the lower classes wear a great

† When a parcel of wool is not fit for broad cloth, it is applied to the manufacture of worsteds, the finest part to hose, and to worsteds for mixing with silk, viz. poplins and tabinets, from 1s. 3d. to 6s. 6d. per yard. crapes from 1s. 2d. to 4s. per yard. The greater part of the combing wool is consumed in worsted for making

	Per yard.	
Shaloon, —	6d. to 2s. 8d.	} Called new drapery in the book of rates.
Callimanco, —	9d. to 2s. 2d.	
Everlasting, —	1s. 3d. to 4s.	
Satinet, —	2s. to 4s.	
Camblet, —	10d. to 1s. 8d.	
Stuffs, broad and narrow, single and double, }	6d. to 1s 6d.	
Plush, —	8d. to 3s. 6d.	
Worsted Crapes, —	7d. to 9d.	

In many of these branches Ireland excels; her poplins and tabinets are beautiful, especially as to colour; but as they have the appearance of silk, and in great part are made of it, they should more properly be ranked under that article.

coat,

coat, both summer and winter, if it can possibly be got. Not only their clothing but their stockings seem to contain a double quantity of wool, and the women among the peasantry seem to depend on other charms than elegance or ornament; they also wear the clumsiest woollens. There is no intention of insinuating that they always wear stockings, but that which covers their persons, and their petticoats, and also their cloke, if they have one, contain much wool, and all of the most gloomy colours; linen or cotton gowns are seldom to be seen among the common peasantry of Ireland.

There seems little doubt of there being at least three millions of inhabitants in Ireland. Perhaps, we have not a better mode of judging of their number than from the hearth-money tax, which some years amounts to above 60,500*l.* of which about 36,000*l.* are paid by houses of one hearth, which, at two shillings each hearth, make 360,000 houses. The well-known disposition of the Irish to increase, and their established character in that respect, causes it to be generally allowed, that

at least six may be reckoned to each cottage. Mr. Young's minutes make it near $6\frac{1}{2}$. The above number of houses with one hearth, multiplied by six, makes 2,160,000. If we allow for the remaining 25,500l. or 255,000 hearths, only 840,000 inhabitants, we have three millions; and if that is thought too many, we must mention the inhabitants of the houses which are excused the tax on account of their poverty.

But if we knew the number of inhabitants, there would be difficulty in settling the quantity they wear of woollens*; and it can only be asserted that they consume a great quantity, and more in proportion than their neighbours. The lower ranks of men in the southern parts of England use little; a coat or great coat they seldom wear; but instead of them a frock or rather shirt of brown or white linen, which covers all. It keeps out more rain and weather than could be expected, but, when wet,

* Four or five pounds of wool for cloths, stockings and hat, considering how coarse and heavy the common woollens are, might not be too much, and it would amount to a large quantity.

it must be worse than woollen. It is some objection also, that the material comes from Russia.

More attention has been given to the woollens, as an article extremely interesting, and concerning which both Ireland and England are apt to be alarmed: most of the late discontents were among this branch of the manufacturers in Ireland, but they were nearly confined to those of the woollen branch in Dublin. In general, the apprehensions for the woollen manufacture in this country are confined to the west of England; and while the manufacturers lose time in complaints against imaginary or exaggerated smuggling of sheep and fine wool from hence, they seem to pass over the principal causes of the decline of their manufacture: first, the migration of it to the West Riding of Yorkshire, where, within a short time, fabrics of Spanish and fine wools have begun to flourish. And, secondly, the use of Manchester goods in many articles wherein superfine woollens were formerly used.

SILK MANUFACTURE.

We now come to one of those manufactures relative to which, notwithstanding the assumed principle, that Irish cannot rival British manufactures, it may be difficult to make an arrangement satisfactory to both countries, or which will suit the respective interests of each. Under this description may be included all manufactures, the materials of which do not pay the same duties on import into the two countries; and here it should be explained, that when the term, “equal duties” is used, it would be a partial construction to refer merely to the duty now paid on the importation of the manufacture from Britain into Ireland, or from Ireland into Britain. The duties on the materials ought to be taken into the consideration; for example;

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Those on the import of raw silk into Britain from all foreign countries are on the great pound of 24 oz.	4	6
	On	

SILK MANUFACTURE. 193

	s.	d.
On thrown filk from the same the pound of 16 oz. - -	7	6
On raw filk into Ireland from foreign countries, the great pound of 24 ounces, - -	1	0
On thrown filk into Ireland from fo- reign countries, pound of 16 oz.	2	0½
On raw filk from Britain in Ireland only, 10½d. - -	1	9
There is a charge undrawback in Britain of 10½d. - -		
On thrown filk from Britain in Ire- land, 1s. 9d.	2	7
Charge undrawback in Britain, 10d.		

It is remarkable that notwithstanding raw filk coming through Britain into Ireland, is loaded with 9d. per pound, and thrown filk 6d. besides commission and carriage more than if imported from foreign parts into Ireland, yet very nearly the whole of her exportation of filk is from Britain, which is to be accounted for principally by a credit she found here which she could not so easily obtain from Italy. It should be the policy of Britain to allow filk to go from hence without any charge on it.

The silk manufactures of Ireland are by no means to be despised; nor has she reason to despond, if they were much inferior to what they are. It did not appear probable twenty-five years ago, that Paisley, in Scotland, could ever arrive at any formidable competition with Spitalfields. At that time the former had no silk manufacture, but now she makes gauzes to the yearly value of near 400,000*l.* and Spitalfields makes little indeed. Hence it appears, that a rich country in possession of a manufacture, of skill, and of industry, cannot always maintain herself against a poor country. Happily under the union of England and Scotland, the migration of the gauze manufactory from Spitalfields to Paisley is not to be lamented. Paisley affords her gauzes cheaper than any part of the world, and furnishes all Europe, and even France with them.

Many of the silk manufactures of Ireland are excellent; her white damasks and her lutestrings are very good; her silk pocket-handkerchiefs are, at least, as good as any; her mixtures of silk are beautiful; her colours excel those of England; her tabinets and poplins are well known and admired every where.

It

It is computed that there are 1500 silk manufacturers in Dublin. From the following account of raw and thrown silk imported at two different periods, it appears, that the manufactures of silk in Ireland are very considerably increased, though not equal to her consumption, for the importation of manufactured silk has also increased considerably. Non-importation agreements have probably had little effect; if the importation of the following year did not make full amends, a private introduction of the article had supplied what was wanting.

It will not be an easy matter to prevent the smuggling of silks into Britain from Ireland, and if the importation should be allowed subject to equal duties; to avoid paying those duties, manufactures of silk would never be entered in the British ports, but would be concealed and introduced among linens or articles not liable to duties. Without unfolding every piece of linen the detection would be difficult.

The quantity of silk imported into Ireland on an average of three years, ending 25th March, 1773:

196 SILK MANUFACTURE.

	lbs.	oz.
Ribbands ———	557	15 $\frac{1}{3}$
Manufactured filk ———	15,786	7 $\frac{2}{3}$
Raw filk ———	41,793	21 $\frac{1}{2}$
Thrown, dyed ———	96	14
Ditto, undyed ———	44,650	13 $\frac{1}{2}$

The quantity of filk imported * into Ireland, on an average of three years, ending 25th March, 1783 :

	lbs.	oz.
Ribbands ———	1,864	0
Manufactured filk ———	22,626	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Raw ———	51,029	1
Thrown, dyed ———	273	4 $\frac{2}{3}$
Ditto, undyed ———	63,496	13 $\frac{1}{3}$

No exportations of filks, or mixtures of filks, till the year 1781, appear in the Custom-house books.

* Five years average quantity of raw and thrown filk imported into England, viz. 1779, 80, 81, 82, and 83, with the amount of duties thereon :

	lbs.	s. d.	l.	s. d.
Upon the great } pound of 24 oz.	599,563	at 4 6	134,901	16 6
Organzine, 16 oz.	428,199	at 7 4	157,006	6 0
			<hr/>	<hr/>
			291,908	2 6

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SILK MANUFACTURE. 197

An account of filk, and mixtures of filk and worsted, exported from Ireland for three years :

1781.

		lbs.	oz.
Ribbands	— — —	13	8
Manufactured filk	— — —	430	3½
Thrown, dyed	— — —	25	0

1782.

Ribbands	— — —	19	4
Manufactured filk	— — —	370	3

1783.

Ribbands	— — —	514	14
Manufactured filk	— — —	3,329	9
Thrown, dyed	— — —	309	0
Manufactured, mixed	— — —	2,064	12

The principal importation of manufactured silks into Ireland from Britain, are gauzes, ribbands, alamodes ; fatins, plain and figured ; persians, farcenets, brocades of all kinds, and several other articles. The quantity of manufactured filk that came from other countries has been very trifling.

MANU-

MANUFACTURE OF COTTON.

This manufacture can hardly be said to have been above four or five years in Ireland, yet it seems already to have taken root, and to be well established. It is computed that near 30,000 people * are employed in it. If it be true, its progress indeed has been rapid; but it cannot be supposed that the fabrics of Manchester are already materially rivalled, except it should be in the home consumption of Ireland. It is said in that country, that although the English manufacture, where cotton alone is used, be not only better and cheaper than that of Ireland, yet the Irish mixtures of cotton and linen are better and cheaper than the English. It may be doubted, whether it is now the case, it probably will be; there is great reason to believe that the cotton manufacture is well fixed in Ireland, and it is to be hoped, superior to untoward accidents, or such circumstances as sometimes overset newly-established fabrics. The bounty of Parliament has been

* The number of persons employed in the counties of Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, and Leicesterhire, in the manufacture of cotton, is estimated at 500,000, including women and children.

liberally

liberally extended to encourage and support this manufacture ; it has consequently been established in different and distant parts of the kingdom *. The principal establishment of this manufacture is at the new town called Prosperous, in the county of Kildare, on the borders of the bog of Allen, now a considerable place, but where there was only one small cottage four years ago. It is well built ; and the whole establishment seems much better regulated than could have been expected in so short a time †. It is to the activity,

* One person in Dublin within three years made 95 carding machines, 394 spinning jennies for 70 threads each, and above 50 spinning jennies for wool.

† The price of labour at Prosperous is from 8d. to 14d., average 10d. A great number of women and children are employed : women 6d. per day or more, children from 1d. to 3d. per day. A good man spinner at the jennies will earn from 6s. to 12s. per week, women from 4s. 6d. to 9s. The weavers do not earn more than the spinners. The work people about the bleach green have 6s. or 7s. per week. The printers gain about a guinea, and at task work about a guinea and a half per week. The number of inhabitants are already about 3000. There are five different out-factories. A great number of people are employed in the counties of Meath and Wicklow, where there are spinning jennies and carding machines. It is debt which generally induces Englishmen to go to Ireland to work at these fabrics ; and they are generally not of the

activity, zeal and spirit of Captain Brooke, that the country owes this foundation, so judiciously placed at a distance from a great town, and also the works near Celbridge: Balbrigen in the county of Dublin having the advantage of an intelligent and active landlord, has already a very considerable manufacture of cotton; the principal buildings are on a large scale, well executed, and seemingly well adapted, and the machinery in general very good. The activity of individuals assisted by Parliament has established considerable works in several parts of the kingdom*.

If the cotton manufacture should continue to make the progress it has done lately in England, it bids fair to be the principal ma-

the most sober and steady kind; but they teach or instruct. Their dissoluteness or unsteadiness prevents their remaining long there.

* The pleasure of seeing children advantageously employed in these works, was greatly diminished by learning that part of them work all night, even so young as five or six years old, and the wages so low as *six pence per week*, and from that price to thirteen pence per week, in some places. The machinery moves smoother, if kept constantly at work; it therefore goes day and night, and consequently requires constant attendance.

nufacture

nufacture of the country. It will bear a great extension. Scotland, whose intelligent and steady people are so well disposed to manufactures, has, within two years, made an astonishing progress in it, particularly in the muslins. There are already five cotton mills erected in Scotland; and, in the city of Glasgow alone, above 1000 looms have been set up in the last year in the muslin branch. The late tax, however, upon cotton goods, is likely to prove very hurtful, and, indeed, nothing can be so impolitic as that system which seizes upon infant manufactures, and wrests them from the hands of the industrious †.

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† The British fustian trade, labours under the following difficulties, and disadvantages in respect to Ireland—1st. by an old duty of 10 per cent. on importation into Ireland; then by a bounty of 5*l.* per cent. lately given by the Irish Parliament on home consumption; by another bounty of 5*l.* per cent. given by the Linen Board likewise on home consumption, which expires on the 1st of January 1785, but may be renewed—By freight, insurances, and expences about 2½ per cent. more—By the late English tax, which on the average is upon the gross amount 3*l.* per cent., and though drawn back on exportation, yet the goods exported will still be loaded with 8*l.* per cent., owing to the effect of the tax. Besides which, the Irish Linen Board gives great encourage-

The field for this manufacture is so large, that the competition of different countries is not likely immediately to check the extension of it, in those which now possess the fabric: at all events Ireland will have her share. The manufacture is as suitable to her as to any country. The cotton wool may, in general, be obtained nearly at the same price in Ireland, in Britain, and in

ment to the Irish manufacturer, by supplying him with looms; and the Irish Parliament gives also a bounty of $8\frac{1}{2}$ l. per cent. on exportation, so that Britain will meet Ireland in future at a foreign market at a disadvantage of $16\frac{1}{2}$ l. per cent. from our tax, and their bounty; and in Ireland to the disadvantage of 26 l. per cent. besides the bounty given by the Linen Board. A duty was imposed last session in Ireland of 1 s. per yard on all printed calicoes imported from Great Britain. The duty imposed in Great Britain is estimated at about $6\frac{1}{2}$ l. per cent., and though allowed to be drawn back on exportation, in general it cannot be obtained, because the marks put on by the Excisemen are frequently defaced in bleaching. The export of British printed goods also must in general suffer from the great introduction of East India goods. East India white calicoes can be exported from 40 to 50 per cent. lower than British calicoes. There are 60,000 pieces of East India printed goods now on sale, which usually sell from 80 to 100 per cent. lower than British printed goods. Fustians and printed goods are the principal objects of the Manchester manufactures.

France;

France; and so far the competition will be fair; but the burdens of Britain give Ireland an advantage; and the cheapness of linen yarn in the latter gives a considerable superiority. It is the warp of all the lower priced and many of the middle priced fustians. In checks made at Manchester $\frac{2}{3}$ of the material is linen yarn, which is wholly Irish. Manchester alone imports from Ireland worsted bay and linen yarn to the amount in value on an average of the four last years, of 212,610*l.* 15*s.* 0*d.* The Irish manufacturer has the advantage of a halfpenny per pound duty on the export of linen yarn from Ireland. The price of cotton in Ireland was lately about 18*d.* English, which is about an halfpenny dearer than it was in France; but at present cotton is dearer in France than in Britain*; the

* A book of French patterns of cotton manufactures exhibits a great variety, and looks neat, when opposed to a book of English patterns; yet there is a great difference in the workmanship in favour of the latter. France however is taking every step to rival and surpass our cotton manufactures: it was therefore not the happiest moment for taxing them. The French have got our spinning machines for cotton, and if they have as much of the spirit of manufacture and of steadiness, they will be able, from the

the value of the labour, however, is so much greater than that of the raw material,

lower price of labour, to underfell us. Rouen was on the verge of ruin from the superiority of the Manchester goods, but now begins to revive again. The Swiss printed cottons are at present much in vogue, and are cheaper than ours, though not so handsome in general. Two mills on Arkwright's plan are now erecting in the neighbourhood of Rouen: they have already most of his machinery; and lest capital should be wanting, government supplies to a great amount; and Mr. Holker, whose abilities this country so foolishly lost, is at the head of the manufacture, with a considerable pension from the Court of Versailles. Spinning machines are also set up in the neighbourhood of Lyons, where the people are rich and industrious. The late taxes on cotton manufactures add to the evil, and must, if persevered in, with the other taxes on manufactures in the end ruin the trade of this country. They ought to be all removed and laid on any thing else rather than upon the fruits of industry. No man will struggle to reduce the price of his manufacture, when he knows that as soon as he has done it, the price will be enhanced again by a tax; nor will ingenious men bear the thoughts of an Exciseman prying into all his works. All means are used to prevent the exportation of cotton from France; yet it is now higher at Bourdeaux than in England, from the prodigious consumption of that article in their manufactures. It is now three halfpence per pound dearer in France. Common or middling French cotton, which at present in England sells at 16 d. per pound, is at 17 d. and St. Domingo cotton 18 $\frac{2}{3}$ d.

Demerara

rial, that the difference of price is of no great consequence, even in the velverets or heaviest goods.

And this brings to our recollection the superiority of the cotton over the silk and other manufactures, in which the raw material is the principal part of the expence. Every manufacture is valuable in proportion to the price of the finished work, when compared to the price of the raw material, or in proportion to the increased value of property created by the labour of a given number of people *. It is preferable to pursue

Demerara cotton in England is at $21\frac{1}{2}$ d. per pound, Grenada cotton at $15\frac{1}{4}$ d. best Grenada and picked cotton sell at $19\frac{1}{2}$ d. but the price of cotton fluctuates more than most articles. The staple of Demerara is the longest and best, and is adapted for muslins and fine goods. East-India cotton, if it were permitted, and could be afforded, that is, if the freight was not too high, would be of the greatest advantage to our manufacturers, and enable them to equal the cotton manufactures of the East. It is some satisfaction to know, that the white goods of France are, and ever will be, much inferior to ours in point of colour; owing, as is supposed, to the difference of water and air. As yet, the French spin 50 hanks at the highest to the pound; we exceed 100 by means of our machinery.

* A dyed velveret, one of the most important articles, passes, from the raw material to a finished state, through

pursue this principle by a less advance of capital than by a larger ; which reasoning will apply and hold good in all places, but possibly in none more than in Ireland, which country is supposed to stand much in need of capital. The following example may help to prove the superior advantage of the cotton.

Thrown silk *, of 16 ounces to the pound, given to be dyed, produces 11 ounces when fit for the loom, and cleared of gum, &c. and is worth 40 shillings. It will produce (suppose exactly) 9 yards of lutestring, which, at 6s. per yard, amounts to 54s. or fourteen shillings advance, from the first cost ; and allowing to the mercer only 6s. for his profits, there will remain 8s. or one fifth, for the manufacturer, or national profit ; if Ireland imports annually 100,000 lbs. of raw

through the following different processes, viz. Batting, picking, washing, drying, carding, roving, shebbing, spinning, winding, doubling, twisting, re-winding, warping, pin-winding, weaving, cutting, scowering, ending, singeing, rubbing, bleaching, dying and making up. These 23 operations are almost always performed in Lancashire, by so many different classes of artists. Indeed it is not unusual for several of them to be again subdivided into two or more parts, and to be still performed by distinct people.

* The greater part of the silk imported into Ireland is not raw.

silk,

filk, and supposing the profits on the other branches of this manufacture to yield an equal benefit, the amount on the whole will be 40,000*l.* viz. 8*s.* per lb. on 100,000 lbs. of filk; and to do this, the nation employs a capital of 200,000*l.* and, in addition to this, the Dublin Society give 2000*l.* in bounties to assist the export of this manufacture.

Now if 200,000*l.* capital stock, aided by 2000*l.* in bounties, produce only 40,000*l.* the calculation will stand as follows: 200,000*l.* at 5 per cent. interest, is worth 10,000*l.* (a year, on an average, for the manufacturing and sale will be necessary) to which add 2000*l.*, the bounty — 12,000*l.* and, consequently there will be } 28,000*l.*
left only the net sum of }
national profit for the support of manufacturers.

But supposing the whole to be exported, which is implied by the bounties being taken into the calculation, then the mercer's profit of 6*s.* on each pound weight of the materials is to be taken into the estimate, which amounting to 30,000*l.*, will make the gross sum 58,000*l.*

The manufacture of cotton is every way preferable; 200,000*l.* will purchase two million

lion of pounds weight of the best cotton in its raw state. If every pound of cotton wrought into stockings, fustians, dimities, muslins, velverets, &c. &c. produces, on an average, six shillings and eight pence value in manufacture, which is but a low estimate, the amount will be 666,666l. 13s. 4d. sterl. or 456,666l. 13s. 4d. national profit, deducting, as above, 10,000l. for interest, which in the other instance produces but 30,000l. and adding the mercer's profit only 60,000l. from which 2000l. the bounties must be deducted, leaving 58,000l. net. But the merchants profits on the exportation of the cotton manufactures, supposing one half only of them exported, will far overbalance the profits of the silk mercer, and give the preference to the cotton manufacture beyond all comparison. The cotton requires more labour, it employs more people, which is one great national object. But the difference of labour is perhaps not so great as may at first be supposed; the carding and spinning of two millions of pounds of cotton, even by the aid of machines, will require more manual labour than the throwing and preparing of 100,000 weight of raw silk; the 100,000 lb. of silk is supposed to produce 900,000 yards of lutestring, or other goods

goods equivalent: the two million pounds of cotton must make at least three million yards of cloth or of stockings, and other goods equivalent; the labour, on this supposition, will be as three to one, in the weaving: the dying and the dressing, hardly in the same proportion; probably not more than two to one: but setting the profits of the merchant who exports only the one half of the manufactures produced from two million pounds of cotton, that is, 466,666l. 13s. 4d., against that of the silk mercer who exports the whole of the silk amounting to but 40,000l., still there is left in favour of the cotton manufacture, from the same capital, a balance of 428,666l. 13s. 4d.

It should be observed, that the raw cotton in the above calculation is valued at 2s. per lb., a price much higher than the general average from seven or ten years past, even including the years of the last war, which do not exceed from 17 to 18d. per lb. for fine cotton, at most. 200,000l. will (calculating the raw cotton at 18d. per lb., a fair estimate) purchase 2,666,666 lb., which will increase the balance in favour of the cotton manufacture 222,222l., and

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besides employ a greater proportionable number of people.

An account of cotton wool, cotton yarn, muslins, and manufactures and mixtures of cotton imported into Ireland, on an average of three years, ending the 25th of March, 1773:

Cotton wool,	cwt. qrs. lb.	2550 3 2 $\frac{1}{4}$
Cotton yarn,	lb.	2226 $\frac{2}{3}$
Muslins,	yards	194987 $\frac{3}{4}$
Cravats,	yards	122
Callicoe, stained,	yards	3999
Fustians,	ends	9618
Manufactures and mixtures of cotton, value		18278l. 16s. 2d.

An account of cotton wool, cotton yarn, &c. &c. &c. imported into Ireland, on an average of three years, ending the 25th March, 1783:

Cotton wool,	cwt. qrs. lb.	3236 1 18
Cotton yarn	lb.	5405 $\frac{1}{2}$
Muslins,	yards	55151
Callicoes {	stained, yards	1541 $\frac{1}{2}$
	white, yards	547 $\frac{1}{4}$
Fustians,	yards	15012 $\frac{2}{3}$
Manufactures and mixtures of cotton, value		103119l. 8s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

An account of the export of cotton yarn, manufactures and mixtures of cotton, from Ireland, during the three following years, none being exported before 1781:

Cotton

	Cotton yarn.	Manuf. and mixt. of cotton.	Fustians.
	lb.	value.	yards.
1781	239	157 7 0	1108
1782	8798	414 7 6	—
1783	2436	1418 1 0	24384

And in 1784 the exportation to America alone of cotton yarn was 800lb. manufactures and mixtures of cotton, in value 8019*l.* 18*s.* 2*d.* Fustians 47,237 yards.

IRON, AND MANUFACTURES OF IRON AND STEEL.

The useful and necessary manufacture of iron being capable, perhaps, of higher improvement and greater extension than any other, and being of the utmost national importance in every point of view, undoubtedly deserves a volume; nor would it be an easy matter to point out all its advantages and all its importance. And yet that most essential business, the making of iron in Great Britain, has been in a great degree rescued within a few years almost from ruin, by the ingenuity and spirit of a few men, who deserve, at least, as well of their country as any of its most favourite patriots.

The scarcity and price of wood have rendered it impossible to make a quantity of iron, either to enter into competition with

foreign markets, or even sufficient for home consumption and manufactures; but the improvements in making good bar iron with pit coal*, the great aid given to labour, and the expences saved by the improved steam engines, afford a reasonable hope, that in time, if no extraordinary checks should intervene, enough will be made in Britain to supply these kingdoms with that necessary article, whereby between five and 600,000*l.* annually, now paid to foreign countries at their ports of exportation, exclusive of the freight and other great expences, would be saved to the nation.

* Some kind of coals (and generally the worst) answer the purpose of making coak much better than others.—There are sorts of coal which, when coaked, are not sufficiently cleansed of their sulphur and impurities to make a kind or malleable pig iron fit for the forges. It has not yet appeared whether the Irish coal is proper for making coak.—This opportunity may be taken of observing how ruinous the coal tax would have been to the making of iron in Britain. The quantity consumed in that business is prodigious; one company alone in Shropshire uses 500 tons of coal daily.—It was the intention to have thrown up many of those great works if the tax had been laid. In such a case the whole rents of the townships would not have supported the poor; and then it may be remarked, that the late tax upon bricks should not have extended to those used in mines or manufacture works.

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This might seem enough to recommend it to the attention and care of the public and of the legislature; but it would not be merely a saving of a certain sum. The employment given to so great a number of men should not be forgotten, and in a manufacture which, on inquiry, will be found as beneficial as any, formed with materials dug out of the earth, not applicable to any other purpose, consequently not interfering with any manufacture, but assisting many, nor causing any change that may take off from other produce. When land is converted from tillage to pasture, or from wood to either tillage or pasture, there is a loss of certain articles; but in the case of iron, in the making of which, ore, limestone, and coal are used, there is none. It should be added, that no manufacturers pay more in excises than those employed in this branch; and supposing 50,000 tons to be imported, and that one man can make a ton in a year, that he pays, in excises of all kinds, upwards of 6*l.* annually, (which are computed to be the case,) there would be an increase of excise, at least, to the amount of 300,000*l.*, which would more than doubly pay the loss to the revenue that would arise from the non-importation of 50,000 tons of foreign iron.

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We are apt to consider iron and bar iron as a raw material * ; in the latter state it is
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* The author, in his Observations on the Commerce of the American States, fell into the same error, and his remarks relative to the duty on import of foreign iron were founded on the state of the manufacture of iron in Great Britain about 15 years ago, previous to the late improvements. He finds that the making of iron is a greater trade than his former information had led him to believe ; and as it may be said to be in an infant state, and undoubtedly is increasing rapidly, it would be dangerous to give it any check at present : at least one third of the quantity of iron imported may be supposed to be for inferior purposes of manufacture, and for which British iron made with pit-coal may be substituted. The improvements made within a few years justify the hopes of approaching the better sorts, if the spirited exertions now making, are not discouraged by the new systems. It is believed, that if the duty on the import of foreign iron was removed, many great iron works would be immediately discontinued, which now employ such numbers of men in the manner the most advantageous to the country, and, at least, save 200,000*l.* which otherwise must be sent out of this country ; but being spent and circulated among the industrious, a considerable part must by them be ultimately paid to the national support in the excise on the various articles consumed by them. Works would be neglected, which within a few years have cost immense sums, but would become useless and of no value, to the ruin of those men, who with great spirit have invested their fortunes in them, under the faith and expectation that the duties on foreign iron would

a manufacture far advanced, and in a mid-way stage from the ore to perfection. We should

would continue. These are weighty considerations; at the same time it should be repeated, there is a probability, that in a few years, by the exertions of several very ingenious men now engaged in the business, that we may be able fully to stock the market at home, which is necessary to put this country on a footing with foreign countries, and then we may gradually lower the duty, or rather the duty will cease of course, as it will not answer to bring in iron, when it can be made in sufficient quantities, and as cheap at home.

This much may be fairly advanced, that from the improvements that have been made, particularly from the capital improvement of coak bar iron by Messrs. Wright and Jesson, which is the method now generally practised, that kind of iron has been much improved in its quality; and the quantity made is greatly increased, and likely to be more so; for as nearly the same number of furnaces are kept up as were during the war, and few cannon are now making, the immense quantity of cast iron which was annually absorbed by these instruments, will be now converted into bar iron, and many of the cannon themselves will be literally turned into plough shares, hoops, and nails—Were the duty to be taken off foreign iron at this critical conjunction, all this trade might fall to the ground.

The substitution of steam engines in place of water mills to work the furnaces and forges, has much increased the powers of manufacturing bar iron. By whom steam engines were first applied to raise water for the wheels of furnaces is not known to the author; but Mr. Wilkinson was the first who applied them directly

should observe that the great consumption of iron is in the gross articles and not in those which require the greatest degree of manufacture. Iron has this peculiar recommendation above almost all other manufactures, that in every stage of it, its value is simply the product of labour, which labour is not hazardous to the lives, or prejudicial to the health of those employed, but, on the contrary, has been remarkably wholesome.

From 50 to 60,000 tons of pig iron, and between 20 and 30,000 tons of bar iron are made in Britain, and the annual demand for the latter is from 70 to 80,000 tons, of

rectly to blow the furnace without the intervention of a water wheel; and Messrs. Boulton and Watts were the first that applied steam engines to work forge mills directly without the intervention of water wheels: they have erected several for that purpose, and there are one or two on the common construction applied to the same use, which they perform in an inferior manner, and at a greater expence of fuel—Messrs. Boulton and Watts have also made several engines for turning mills of other sorts, and are now making many more. The advantages of their engines consist in their saving two-thirds of the fuel used to do the same work by common fire engines, in their being more manageable, and better constructed in every respect.

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which between 50 and 60,000 are imported, the value of which is so much money paid for foreign labour. It is computed, that Great Britain makes, at least, 10,000 tons of iron more than she did a few years ago, which at 16*l.* per ton, the present average price, amounts to 160,000*l.*; and this quantity is likely to be much more than doubled in a very short period. If the demand is only 70,000 tons, the manufacturing of the whole within the country will employ 70,000 labourers, and valuing the iron only at 15*l.* per ton, will produce an annual profit of more than a million to the nation. But if the making of iron is not encouraged and extended, the sum that now goes from this country for that article will be increased. The price of Russia iron rises very rapidly; 5 per cent. in 1784, and as great a rise is expected in 1785. Russia has found a vent by the Black Sea; and some fabrics, particularly that of Toulá, which formerly sent much to England, now send none.

The price must increase also from the immense destruction of the woods by the iron works, by the slowness of the growth of woods, and the neglect of them in Siberia, where are the principal iron works. It

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is surprising, indeed, that Russia can afford iron so cheap as she does. The Abbé D'Auteroche reports, that on the spot, in Siberia, iron is estimated at less than 30s. English, per ton. It is all conveyed an astonishing distance by inland carriage; yet it is afforded at Petersburg at about 8s. per cwt. The best sable iron comes from Neucanskoi in Siberia; it is carried by land to the Tchuschauwaia, which falls into the Kama, and that into the Wolga below the city of Kasan; it then ascends the Wolga, and is brought by the Ladoga canal to Petersburg. With the decrease of vassalage and increase of civilization, the price of labour also will rise in Russia. The present low price of iron in Russia is partly accounted for by this circumstance, that the Empress grants a district with the peasantry on it, and the person to whom it is granted not paying for the latter, as is usual in other countries where negroes are employed, the price of their labour is merely the expence of keeping them.

An inquiry into these circumstances is necessary, when not only the present but the probable future state of the iron trade should be examined. The object is of the
utmost

utmost consequence, especially to Britain. The expediency of endeavouring, on the part of Ireland, to make iron a principal manufacture of that kingdom, and of vieing with a favourite and established manufacture of Great Britain, may be doubted. It will be difficult to raise the manufacture in Ireland in competition with that of Britain. The capital of Ireland may be otherwise employed to advantage, particularly in manufactures so advantageous and natural to her as leather, &c. ; but if such a competition should be thought an object for the mutual advantage of the two countries ; on an arrangement, it will be deemed fair and reasonable that the manufactures of each should be exported to all parts charged with similar or equivalent duties, and that this only can be judged an equal settlement.

There is no article in which it will be more difficult to arrange with Ireland than on that of iron ; and in consequence of the revolutions which have taken place in America and Ireland, those interested in the iron trade of this kingdom are alarmed ; they think it is become matter of very serious consideration, how far that branch of ma-

nufacture may or is likely to be affected by its new rival sister, Ireland.

They assert that Ireland will not observe the spirit of her compact, if she does not put the same duty on the export of iron wares to the American states, to which she had agreed when they were dependent on England. It may be proper to state, that when Ireland, in 1778, obtained a free trade to the British colonies, she undertook, by the act of her own Parliament, to equalize the duties, that the Irish manufacturers should not be able to supply the colonies on better terms than the English in their respective branches.

The representatives of the iron trade in England agreed, that Ireland should have a participation in their branch of trade, on payment of equal duties with themselves, the duty on bar iron being at that time very different in the two kingdoms.

It was first proposed to impose on all foreign bar iron imported into Ireland the same duties as were then paid in England on the same articles, but this proposal was declined. The only other method of equalizing

zing was, by imposing a duty on iron wares and iron exported from Ireland, as should send them to market charged with duties equal to the English. The following calculations for the average on which the par of duty was calculated, were satisfactory to both parties at that time, and were deemed fair between the two countries. The gentleman who negociated for Ireland, declared himself perfectly satisfied therewith, and that he was honourably treated by the iron trade of England. A clause was immediately added to the act of Parliament then in agitation, imposing a duty of 2l. 10s. on all bar iron; and 3l. 3s. 11d. on all iron wares exported from Ireland to the British colonies in the West Indies, and on the coast of Africa, grounded on these calculations :

Calculation made in 1778, for equalizing the duty on a ton of bar iron between England and Ireland.

A ton of bar iron pays duty on importation into England 2l. 8s. 6d.*
and draws back nothing on re-

* There is an addition to the duty on importation of bar iron into Britain since 1778, as will be more particularly mentioned hereafter.

export

	£.	s.	d.
export to America or the British West Indies † - -	2	8	6
A ton of bar iron into Ireland pays 10s. Irish duty ‡, of which it draws back 7s. 6d. on re-export- ation, duty remaining is 2s. 6d.			
Irish - -	0	2	4
	<hr/>		
Difference in favour of Ireland,			
English money - -	2	6	2
Add, to make this Irish money	0	3	10
	<hr/>		
Duty to be imposed on every ton of bar iron exported from Ireland	2	10	0
	<hr/>		

Calculation for equalizing the duty on a ton
of iron wares between England and Ire-
land, made in 1778.

30 cwt. of bar iron is, on an ave-
rage, estimated to produce one
ton of manufactured iron wares.

† On exportation to Ireland or settlements in Africa,
the whole is drawn back except the old subsidy. The
same is now allowed to America and the plantations,
on bar iron, but not on wrought iron.

‡ The same duty is payable on importation of iron
into Ireland from all parts.

30 cwt.

30cwt. of bar iron into Great Bri-			
tain, at 2l. 8s. 6d. pays	3	12	9
30 cwt. ditto into Ireland, at 10s.			
per ton Irish, or 9s. 2d. English			
money, pays	-	-	0 13 9
			<hr/>
Difference in favour of Ireland, in			
English money	-	2	19 0
Add, to make this Irish money	0	4	11
			<hr/>
Duty to be imposed on a ton of			
iron wares when exported from			
Ireland	-	-	3 3 11
			<hr/>

An act in conformity to this calculation was soon after passed in the Irish House of Commons, and the duties above are now in force in Ireland.

A memorial from Ireland is now before the Ministry, complaining of the duty imposed on a ton of iron wares, as being taken on an unfair average, and intimating that a ton of split iron, or iron hoops, do not require so great a quantity of bar to produce a ton of manufacture; it is true that those *two* articles, and those *two* only, do not require much more than 21 cwt. of bar to produce a ton; but it is argued, that there

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is an immense variety of bright iron and steel wares, of which a ton cannot be manufactured from 30 cwt. 40 cwt. or even 50 cwt. of bar iron; even in the article of small nails, 30 cwt. of bar produces only 21 cwt. 3 q. 11 lb. of manufacture. With the approbation of both parties, the average was made on one average only, to avoid a variety of calculations for different articles.

It seems proper here to observe, that the duty on a ton of bar iron into England is increased, since 1778, 7s. 7d. per ton; so that the true equalizing duty on Ireland should now be 3l. 16s. 3d. and not 3l. 3s. 11d. The latter duty, which is now in force in Ireland, is the difference of duty on 25 cwt. only of bar to a ton of iron wares; an average so much too low, that Britain thinks she has now a right to complain as the injured country in this particular.

It would have been better, and more equal to the different manufactures of iron in Ireland, if two averages had been taken, one on nails, hoops, and other heavy articles; and another on the lighter and brighter articles of iron and steel wares, in which
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the waste of the material is abundantly more considerable; and then 25 cwt. perhaps would have been an equitable calculation for the gross, and 40 or 45 cwt. for the smaller and bright wares, which might have prevented the objection on the part of Ireland against the inequality of the average.

Ireland farther says, that the duty of 3 l. 3 s. 11 d. on her wares is too much, because England makes a large quantity of iron, and consequently a great proportion of her wares go out free of duty. England consumes more than double the quantity of iron for *internal* uses than she makes; it cannot therefore be justly said that any iron wares go out of England free of the duty paid on bar iron imported, and as Ireland can now import iron from Russia considerably cheaper than it can be imported into England, Ireland is therefore supplied for its internal uses on better terms.

The Iron masters of Great Britain strenuously assert there will be nothing like equality or reciprocity, unless both countries pay the same duty on the importation of foreign bar iron; and that that duty should not be lower than it now is in Eng-
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land, viz. 2l. 16s. 1d. per ton English, which is equal to 3l. 0s. 9d. Irish, as a reduction of that duty would tend to defeat its operation in favour of British iron works, which deserve and require at this juncture every support and encouragement from the country. Even such an equalization would leave a great advantage to Ireland, as her manufactures do not pay the number of excises which are paid in Britain. If iron ore should be wanting in Ireland, the best is to be had from Lancashire and Cumberland, and may go as ballast to oak bark, and be delivered in Ireland on cheaper terms than to the makers of iron in most parts of Britain, where this kind of ore is used. The transportation to the eastern coast of Ireland will not cost one half of what is now paid by the iron makers at Chepstow, and in the Ports of the Severn, where great quantities of it are sent, and through Hull to Rotherham, and other inland works; and in Scotland it is used at a still greater expence; and if pit coal and peat or turf should be wanting in Ireland*, that article may be had

* As to the article coals, there is plenty in some parts of Ireland, and probably in time they may be got at as low a price as in England. The iron ore, the lime

had as cheap on her eastern coast from Britain as in several parts of the latter, and much cheaper than in London, where many branches of the iron manufacture are carried on to a great extent, viz. hoops, rods, anchors, ship bolts, &c. It is well known that coals are above 30 per cent dearer in the Thames than in the Liffey.

While Ireland had woods, she had also many iron works; but when the former were cut down and destroyed, there was of course nearly an end of the latter; the improvements in making iron have encouraged her to revive them; some steam engines are now erecting, and she is rapidly increasing her manufactures of iron; and as the true means of benefiting the country would be by encouraging the making of the iron, which she can use in her manufactures, the only method of establishing that

lime stone (the ore is generally to be found where there is coal) and coal will be found in the same neighbourhood, and with the help of steam engines and navigations (no country is better fitted for the latter than Ireland) iron works may be established wherever those articles can be found. Peat has been used in England in iron works, altho' to no great extent; but furnaces are now erecting in Ireland on land abounding with iron ore and coal.

work will be by laying the heavy duty * on foreign iron imported, which will operate as a bounty in favour of her iron works. Till that is done, it cannot be expected any quantity of iron will be made there; at present nothing can be expected, except an emigration of English capitals to be employed in Ireland to vend foreign labour in the form of rod iron, hoops, sheets, and heavy articles, to the prejudice of both kingdoms.

The labour of converting a ton of iron, value 14l. in Ireland, into hoops, rods, &c. will not exceed 20s., and is the whole of the profit on this capital†; which iron, if made in the country, the whole would be a national profit, being simply the produce of so much labour. In short, there can be no doubt that the national object should be to make the iron at home, and thereby save so much, and employ a great number of

* Since the additional duties of two 5 per cents, and the discounts (have been taken off) which makes near 8s. per ton, the English iron works have increased rapidly, and several thousand tons of bar iron have been made more than were made when the duty was less.

† By rolling and flitting, iron is very little advanced from the bar; the labour is not so much as ten shillings per ton.

people;

people; and it was thus that so much treasure, formerly unknown to Britain, has been drawn from the earth. The only other satisfactory mode of equalization and reciprocity, will be by laying duties on exportation of iron manufactures from Ireland to all parts, equal to the charges with which they go from Britain, and this, it is said, would be consonant to the spirit of the compact, and in return for the participation of the plantation trade.

Those concerned in the iron trade add, that if neither of these take place, Ireland only paying 10s. where Britain pays 56s. she must undersell the latter in her commerce with the American States, the great mart for British iron wares *, and also on the

* The following calculation is also given, to prove the advantage Ireland would have :

Calculation for iron hoops.

	£.	s.
A ton of Russia iron, fit for hoops, cost, }		
in 1784, into London, nearly }	14	10
Waste of metal and charge of rolling,	3	10
	<hr/>	
Cost of a ton of hoops in London, ———	18	0
	Diffe-	

the continent of Europe, particularly Portugal, which takes most iron hoops *, and so materially in heavy iron wares, that she must very rapidly supplant Britain in that branch of trade, unless the export of the

Brought forward, - - -	£.	s.
	18	0
Difference of duty on a ton of bar iron in } favour of Ireland,	2	7
<hr/>		
Cost of a ton of hoops in Dublin, —	15	13
Difference in favour of Ireland, about 15l. per cent.		

Calculation of split iron.

A ton of Russia bar iron fit for rod iron, }		
cost into London, in 1784, about 14l. }	14	0
Waste of metal and charge of flitting, -	1	10
<hr/>		
Cost of a ton of rod iron in London,	15	10
Difference of duty in favour of Ireland, -	2	7
<hr/>		
Cost of a ton of rod iron at Dublin —	13	3

Difference in favour of Ireland between 15 and 20l.
per cent.

N. B. These calculations are made, on an average, for English ports; and the comparison is made on a supposition that coals are at the same price in the Irish ports. But the difference in the Thames and in the Liffey has been already mentioned.

* America and Portugal took two thirds of the whole export of iron wares.

manu-

manufacture is protected by a bounty which must exceed the duty on the import of bar iron, as 30 cwt. of the latter will, on an average, make less than 22 cwt. of wrought iron, and consequently the bounty should be near a third more than the duty; and they farther add, that they hope, if their equitable desire is refused, and farther measures should be necessary, that the legislature will moreover protect them, by other regulations which may be suggested. They declare also, that unless they are protected by the legislature, they must desert the works, which have cost millions, and migrate with their capitals to Ireland; the loss to the nation, they say, it is unnecessary for them to state.

It has been observed, that equality and reciprocity require that Ireland should lay the same duties on the importation of the materials of manufacture * as are paid in Britain, or that they shall be equalized on the export of the manufactures to all parts. The first will be objected to, on the part of Ireland, as charging her consumption

* It will still remain, in the opinion of many, to be examined, what compensation should also be made for excise, window lights, &c. &c.

heavily

heavily and unnecessarily; and it is objectionable on the part of this country, unless the duties are drawn back on exportation to Britain, and laid on importation into Britain from Ireland: otherwise Ireland will receive the duties or revenue arising on the consumption of Britain, which the latter now enjoys. The second method of equalizing, viz. by laying the same duties on the export of the manufacture to all parts, will, also, probably be objected to by Ireland, because she is already in possession of the advantage of sending out many articles to all countries, except the British plantations, charged with less duties than the same articles going from Britain; and Britain will object to this mode of equalizing, because it will be easily evaded. It has not been, and it will not be, the policy of Ireland to enforce a very exact observance of such cautions as may be adopted: Britain would submit her manufactures, her trade and commercial laws, to the fidelity of the Custom-house officers of Ireland in many respects.—In short, it is impossible for her to be secured permanently in the regulations that may be made; but when her trade is once gone in consequence of her arrangements, and she finds herself disappointed, the

the recovery of that trade, is not probable. It has been already observed, that equalization in general would benefit Ireland and prejudice Britain less than is imagined: this must be always understood under an arrangement in every respect reciprocal; and if Ireland really means such, the more the subject is examined, the less favourable she will find such an arrangement*; and that the whole system is likely to be productive of much more embarrassment and ill temper than advantage to both countries.

Unless iron manufactures go to the American States from Ireland, charged with the same duties and burdens as from Britain, it is obvious, that Ireland must in time have the whole of this trade: and unless Britain obtains this equilization, she submits not to present but to certain future competition, without the least return.

It has been generally supposed that Ireland has great disadvantages in working iron

* In an equal arrangement of manufactures, Ireland must expect to give a bounty on the export of British linens, in the same manner as it is given in Britain on the export of Irish linens from thence.

mines, when compared with Great Britain; but the reason does not appear*, unless it should arise from want of capital; in general it may be observed, that the private capitals of English manufacturers at present combat the purse of Ireland, in the hands of a bountiful and liberal parliament. But if Englishmen will employ their capitals in Russia, why should they not employ them in Ireland †? Some Englishmen, with English

* It has been already observed that the price of British coal on the east coast of Ireland, is lower than it is in many parts, where manufactures of iron are carried on in Britain. It is remarkable, that as the latter affects to encourage the spreading of manufactures, so partial and impolitic a tax as that on coals carried coastways, should be adopted. It is about five times as much as the duty on coals exported to Ireland. The duty on coals carried coastways from one port of Great Britain to another is 5s. $4\frac{2}{3}$ d. per Winchester chaldron. The duty on coals exported from Great Britain to Ireland, is 1s. $1\frac{4}{5}$ d. per chaldron. The duty on coals imported into the port of London 8s. 7d. per chaldron. The duty on coals exported to foreign countries in British bottoms, 8s. $0\frac{1}{4}$ d. per chaldron. The duty on coals exported in foreign bottoms, 14s. 4d. per chaldron.

† The extravagancies, the uncommon proceedings of Ireland, and her unsettled state, may reasonably prevent it at this time; and her frequent threats of an absentee tax do not seem very judicious or well calculated to promote migration to Ireland.

Men

lish capitals, are erecting large works in Russia for rolling, flitting, tinning plates, &c.

If the great improvements in making iron should not enable Britain and Ireland, in time, principally to supply themselves with that article, it is evident they must be surpassed in the manufactures of it. At pre-

Men will not trust their property in a country where such an arbitrary and impatient disposition is shewn, or lay it out where it can be liable to such disadvantage and restraints. The author being himself in the predicament of an absentee, should not have made this observation, if he supposed the tax likely to take place, or that the change of property from one country to the other would be very disadvantageous, at a time when estates in England sell at 23 years purchase, and under; but indeed if such a tax could effectually be established in Ireland, the price of land would probably fall to ten years purchase. No absentee, however, would keep land there longer than he could possibly avoid it. Ireland would feel a scarcity of money, much greater than she has ever experienced. As she may sometimes want money, it is not quite prudent to talk of such measures. Englishmen are not very fond of lending money to Ireland; and they will be much less so, when they recollect the same reason exists for taxing the money of an absentee on mortgage, as the land of an absentee; there is this difference, indeed, that the mortgagee draws more money in proportion; and a clearer and larger income, from the country than the proprietor of an estate.

sent Britain alone pays above six hundred thousand pounds yearly for that article to foreign countries. The following account of expences on a ton of iron from Russia, shews the difference in carrying on the manufacture in the two countries. No less than 5l. 4s. 2d. the ton.

	£.	s.	d.
Commission, lighterage, Russia, custom, and all other Russia charges, - -	0	13	10
Russian duty on export, -	0	9	0
* The Sound duties - -	0	2	8
Two-third port charges, -	0	1	6
Freight and insurance, about -	0	19	0
Landing, custom-house charges duty to the Russia Company in London, &c. &c.	0	3	0
Duty in Britain, -	2	16	1
	<hr/>		
	5	4	3

* This Sound duty sometimes amounts from 50l. to 100l. ; and more, on a single ship's cargo. It is an extraordinary instance to what nations will submit through habit ; but, considering the rising power of Russia, it may not long last.

The

The duties on importation into Ireland from Britain, are,

On unwrought iron, 10s. per ton.

On hoops, 4s. 1d. per cwt.

On iron, ore, and cinders, $5\frac{1}{2}\frac{4}{5}$ per ton.

Ireland makes little bar iron; her importation of iron increased near a third in ten years, which proves the increase of her manufactures and of her consumption, as her importations of wrought iron have in general increased, and not inconsiderably; but still the latter are not great when compared with her consumption.

On an average of three years, ending 25th March, 1773, iron imported into Ireland,

		Cwt.	qrs.	lbs.
From the East Country	-	74,683	3	$25\frac{1}{2}$
From Britain	- -	44,352	1	$4\frac{1}{2}$
Total		119,036	1	2

Ditto

Ditto of iron, on an average of three years,
ending 25th March, 1783:

		Cwt.	qrs.	lbs.
From the East Country*	98,488	1	9	$\frac{1}{2}$
From Britain	-	74,730	0	$4\frac{2}{3}$
Total	173,218	1	14	

Export from Ireland of iron and iron ware
for the same years.

		Ironmongers' ware.				Iron.	
		Value.				Tons.	Cwt.
1771	—	29	4	9	—	9	0
1772	—	10	5	6	—	4	2
1773	—	22	13	10	—	2	4

	Hardware.			Ironmongers' ware.			Wrought iron.		Iron.	
	Value.			Value.			Cwt.	q. lb.	Tons.	Cwt.
1781	16	3	0	253	6	3	25	0 0	0	0
1782	22	11	4	2	19	0	75	3 7	0	0
1783	213	9	6	85	3	9	359	2 0	8	1

Imports into Ireland for the year ending
25th March, 1783, of iron and iron ware.

Hardware, value - - 21,773 2 10 $\frac{1}{2}$

* The import into Ireland from St. Petersburg
alone, in 1784, was 2514 tons, or 50,280 cwt.

Iron,

MANUFACTURES.

239

Iron, cwt. q. lb.	-	-	164,187	1	0
Knives, No.	-	-	579,833	0	0
Mermits, No.	-	-	9,797	0	0
Pots, No.	-	-	748	0	0
Razors, No.	-	-	14,865	0	0
Sciffars, grose, dozens	-		757	9	0
Scythes, dozens	-	-	4,089	0	0
Small parcels, value	-		24,473	17	5½
Iron ore, tons	-	-	323	0	0

Almost the whole of the above articles were imported from Britain, except iron, which came from several countries in the following quantities:

			Cwt.	q.	lb.
From England	-	-	61,943	2	0
Scotland	-	-	3,144	1	0
Guernsey	-	-	40	3	7
Jersey	-	-	136	2	14
Sweden	-	-	83,489	3	14
Russia	-	-	12,873	1	21
Denmark and Norway			1,152	0	14
East Country	-	-	63	0	0
Germany	-	-	525	0	0
Flanders	-	-	728	2	14
New York	-	-	90	0	0

GLASS

GLASS MANUFACTURE.

Since the heavy duty was laid, a few years ago, on glass in Britain, Ireland has made an extraordinary progress in that manufacture—she had little of it before; but nine glass houses have now suddenly arisen in Ireland. The extension of the trade of that country must also be considered as a spur to this manufacture, although she did very little towards her own supply before. She still imports in large quantities; but she must soon have almost the whole of this trade to the British settlements and the American States. The British tax is laid in a pernicious manner on the metal; the waste and blemished part are taxed and retaxed without end; and bad ware will be sent out to avoid the loss. Many glass houses at Stourbridge and at Liverpool, &c. have been given up lately; the number in London is greatly reduced, and our exportation to the Continent, it is said, is now principally confined to articles of a high price, which form but a small part of the manufacture. The French, also, have decoyed away many of the best workmen, and have thereby improved their own manufacture of glass.

The

The table glass made in Ireland is very handsome, and apparently as good as any made in England; at the same time the best drinking glasses are three or four shillings per dozen cheaper than English. The general-increased consumption in Ireland appears, from the importation of most articles, (except drinking glasses,) in nearly the same quantities, notwithstanding so considerable a quantity is now made in the country.

Her export of glass begins to be considerable, as appears from the following account; but in the last year, ending 25th March, 1784, it was greatly increased,—for she sent to America alone 532 dozen of bottles, and 20,736 drinking glasses. This, however, may be considered as an effort on the first opening of trade with the American States; and it may be doubted whether a speculation of so much risque will speedily be repeated to the same extent*. The greater part of the drinking glasses she exported in the year ending 25th March, 1783, went to Portugal.

* Yet a principal house in Dublin has received orders from New York that would employ it two years.

Account of glafs imported into Ireland, on an average of three years, ending 25th March 1773.

Bottles,	Dozens	39,768 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cafes,	No.	2,083
Dainking Glaffes,	No.	209,222
Vials,	No.	8,112
Glafs ware,	Value	3,745 <i>l.</i> 14 <i>s.</i> 3 <i>d.</i>

Account of glafs imported into Ireland, on an average of three years, ending 25th March, 1783.

Bottles,	Dozens,	42,504 $\frac{2}{3}$
Cafes,	No.	2,067 $\frac{2}{3}$
Drinking Glaffes,	No.	22,248
Vials,	No.	4,524
Glafs ware,	Value	3,675 <i>l.</i> 11 <i>s.</i> 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ <i>d.</i>

There was no export of glafs from Ireland before 1780; ſince that time the export has been as follows:

Bottles.	Drinking Glaffes	Glafs ware.	Cafes.
Dozen.	No.	Value.	No.
		<i>£.</i> <i>s.</i> <i>d.</i>	
1781 1892	—	35 8 10	—
1782 1738	—	172 11 0	—
1783 468	9910	— — —	—

EARTHEN

EARTHEN WARE.

The successful rivalry of the British glass manufactory in Ireland, within a very few years, shews the progress she is likely to make in a short period in that of earthen ware. At present she has no very considerable works, except of the coarse kinds; but as foreign countries have imitated the English manufacture, Ireland will do it to greater advantage. There are no laws to prevent the emigration of workmen to that kingdom as there are in respect to foreign countries; on the contrary, the vicinity of Ireland, added to the sameness of language and laws, give great facility to emigrations when the Irish manufactures are in a state to give employment to industry and ingenuity.

The great and extensive earthen-ware works in England owe their establishment, in their present superior stile, to the ability and elegant taste of Mr. Wedgwood; he may have the satisfaction of thinking that perhaps no one man ever gave employment to a greater number of manufacturers, or was the cause of a greater exportation of a

manufacture so variously advantageous to his country, exhibiting at the same time to all parts of the world, the progress Britain has lately made in the beautiful as well as useful arts.

This manufacture maintains many thousands of poor labouring people in several and distant parts of England, in raising the raw materials, preparing and working them. No foreign materials are employed in it; its value, therefore, consists wholly in labour bestowed upon native produce.

The freightage it furnishes for the coasting trade, that best and readiest supply for the navy, is very considerable, and peculiarly interesting, as the raw materials are brought from Poole in Dorsetshire, Tintmouth, and other places, by those vessels which are employed at the proper seasons, in the Newfoundland fishery. These materials are carried coastwise to Liverpool and Hull, to the amount of many thousand tons yearly, and from thence by river and canal navigation, to the Potteries in Staffordshire. What is peculiar to this manufacture, and renders it still more valuable is, that the wares furnish some of them five or six times,
and

and none less than two or three times as much tonnage as the raw materials (coals excepted, which are not brought by water) and are returned by a like circuitous navigation to all parts of the coast of this island, from whence they are shipped for foreign markets. It is a known fact, that this cheap and bulky article makes a part of the cargo of almost every ship that leaves our ports: nor is it less remarkable, as a circumstance of national concern, that the quantity exported amounts, according to some calculations, to nine-tenths, but certainly not less than five-sixths of the whole produce.

But as this manufacture has risen to its present magnitude and state of perfection within these very few years, little attention has hitherto been paid for preserving the channels open for its admission into foreign markets: it has therefore been clogged with imposts and prohibitions, more, perhaps, than any other British manufacture. In Sweden, Denmark, Brandenburg, Prussia, and Portugal, it is prohibited: in the latter kingdom, indeed, we are told that it will now be admitted, but on a duty of four times the value of the goods; and in the Austrian Netherlands,

therlands, the duty is at present nearly three times the value of the goods. The King of Prussia has lately laid a double impost on this manufacture, one upon its going into Dantzic, and another payable on the Vistula, in the passage from Dantzic to Poland. The late edict of the Emperor*, for the prohibition of English manufactures, will give the last stroke to our exports into his dominions: In Saxony, our wares pay a very high duty: in Spain, to which our exports have been great, an impost has lately taken place, more than equal to the value of our cheaper species of earthen ware: in Livonia, a duty of 30 per cent. has been added to one before of 10 per cent. and in the other dominions of the Empress of Russia, the duty is likewise 40 per cent. In Holland and Italy, the duties are moderate; and the demand is accordingly very considerable, and for our best goods.

Some of the above-mentioned imposts and prohibitions have taken place, in conse-

* This edict has been suspended for a few months. Administration seemed perfectly ignorant of the existence of such an edict, when the manufacturers mentioned it a considerable time, after it had been published.

quence,

quence, it is said, of our partiality to Portugal wines, and our duties on foreign linen, and our prohibition of the lace of the Low Countries, an article which is smuggled with so much facility that no prohibition can prevent its importation into this country.

Since we have lost the monopoly of the American market, the manufacturers on the Continent have had an additional inducement to attempt rivalling us there; for which purpose they have hired our workmen, and taken every other step in their power. The rapid improvement they have made in this manufacture shew that they have not laboured in vain, and that nothing less than our utmost exertions, accompanied with such assistance as Government can afford, in preserving to us the markets that are still left open, and opening, where practicable, those which are now shut, can enable us to retain, for any length of time, that superiority we are at present in possession of; for we have no advantage over many parts of the Continent either in the goodness or cheapness of our materials, and labour (which constitutes nearly the whole of the expence of this manufacture) is at least cent. per cent. against us.

Most

Most of these circumstances will equally affect Ireland.

Account of earthen ware imported into Ireland, on an average of three years, ending 25th March, 1773.

Value.
12,085l. 3s. 0½d

Account of earthen ware imported into Ireland, on an average of three years, ending 25th March, 1783.

Value.
17,401l. 14s.

The valuations are very unsatisfactory.

None exported.

There is not time now to observe upon the remaining manufactures in much detail ; but a knowledge of the importations and exportations

tations of the most material of them at different periods, with a very few remarks, will furnish matter of observation to those who wish to examine the subject.

The manufacture of leather and candles have been mentioned under the article, Produce of Cattle.

S T O C K I N G S.

It is remarkable that the importation of a manufacture so much in the power of Ireland as stockings, should have increased so very considerably in ten years. It is probable, however, that the manufacture within the country has also increased, though not in proportion to the increased consumption; and the increased importation, when combined with other obvious circumstances, afford a fair presumption of the progressive improvement of the kingdom. Above 7500*l.* went out of the country for thread stockings; above 3000*l.* for cotton; and above 2000*l.* for worsted, in the year ending 25th March, 1783.

I i

Importation

Importation of stockings into Ireland.

	Cotton. Pairs.	Silk. Pairs.	Silk & Worft. Pairs.	Thread. Pairs.	Woollen. Pairs.	Worfted. Pairs.
1771	12,222	547	42	18,031	1,875	9,290
1772	10,365	278	0	15,621	264	4,783
1773	8,633	296	24	16,888	118	5,422

No exportation of stockings from Ireland during the above period.

Importation of stockings into Ireland.

	Cotton. Pairs.	Silk. Pairs.	Silk and Thread. Pairs.	
1781	17,338	431	24	
1782	20,490	360	0	
1783	23,744	1,042	192	

	Silk & Worfted. Pairs.	Thread. Pairs.	Woollen. Pairs.	Worfted. Pairs.
1781	228	29,655	331	5,111
1782	348	39,717	1,617	9,617
1783	580	60,570	1,318	8,944

Exportation of stockings from Ireland.

	Thread. Doz. Pairs.		Woollen. Doz. Pairs.		Worfted. Doz. Pairs.	
1781	432	4	297	11	1,143	1
1782	14	0	139	0	138	3
1783	79	3	259	0	393	0

H A T S

H A T S.

As the exportation of hats from Ireland exceeds the importation, it is clear that the manufacture of that article must be very considerable there. In the year ending 25th March, 1784, the export to America alone increased to 11,867. Neither the Americans nor the French can make good hats in sufficient quantities, through want of rabbits wool. It is surprising at how low a price, and in what quantities, Newcastle under Line affords felt hats.

Account of hats imported into Ireland, on an average of three years, ending 25th March, 1773.

No. 865.

Account of hats imported into Ireland, on an average of three years, ending 25th March, 1783.

No. 2012.

Account of hats exported from Ireland.

In the year 1781	-	-	No. 1404
1782	-	-	450
1783	-	-	3211

U P H O L S T E R Y.

This manufacture, which includes carpeting and blankets, is much improved and extended in Ireland ; yet the annexed account shews an increased importation in ten years ; but the consumption was still more increased. If a later average, however, is taken than that ending 1773, there is some decrease in the importation : in a few years the amount probably will be trifling ; at present it is not considerable.

Importation into Ireland of upholstery ware for the following period :

1771	1772	1773
Valuc.	Value.	Valuc.
6198l. 19s. 2d.	4318l. 9s. 11½d.	5739l. 11s. 9d.

No exportation of upholstery ware from Ireland during the above-mentioned period.

Impor-

Importation into Ireland of upholstery ware for the following periods :

1781	1782	1783
Value.	Value.	Value.
4805l. 13s. 1d.	8977l. 17s. 11¼d.	8289l. 2s. 10½d.

Export from Ireland of upholstery ware for ditto :

1781	1782	1783
Value.	Value.	Value.
113l. 6s. 8d.	629l. 18s. 3d.	636l. 18s. 0d.

P O T A S H E S.

Notwithstanding the spirited encouragement which is given for the making this essential article for the linen manufacture within the kingdom, the importation has increased one third in ten years, and it must continue to be very great ; but it proves the increase of the linen manufacture. In the year ending 25th March, 1783, the importation from all parts amounted to

130,893 cwt. 1qr. 21lb.

Value, at 25s. per cwt., 163,616l. 15s. 11d.

A great proportion, as will appear under the head of trade with Spain, came from that country.

Account

254 SOAP AND CANDLES

Account of pot ashes imported into Ireland, on an average of three years, ending 25th March, 1773.

Cwt.	q.	lb.
54,297	3	16 $\frac{1}{2}$

Account of pot ashes imported into Ireland, on an average of three years, ending 25th March, 1783.

Cwt.	q.	lb.
81,028	1	12

SOAP AND CANDLES.

In soap as well as in candles, Ireland has considerable advantages. Since 1778, she has acquired a great part of the trade to the West Indies and North America in these articles, and she is likely to have still more of it. Under the article, produce of cattle, it appears that the export of candles more than doubled in a short time. Ireland is benefited by the duty of 1s. 6d. per cwt. on tallow exported to Britain, to which her manufacture is not subject. Ireland does not pay any duty on barilla imported. Britain pays 5s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per cwt. Ireland makes very good mould candles. Great quantities of

of tallow are imported, and considerable quantities of soap and candles are smuggled into the west of England and Wales.

An average of soap exported from Ireland, during three years, ending 1773.

Cwt.	q.	lb.
712	0	21

Do. do. exported from do. during three years, ending 1783.

Cwt.	q.	lb.
3039	0	$18\frac{1}{3}$

An average of soap imported into Ireland, during three years, ending 1773.

Cwt.	q.	lb.
418	0	$23\frac{1}{3}$

Do. do. imported into Ireland, during three years, ending 1783.

Cwt.	q.	lb.
750	1	$9\frac{1}{3}$

BOOKS,

BOOKS, PAPER, &c.

Whenever any arrangement is made between Great Britain and Ireland, it is hoped that some attention will be paid to literary property, and that copy right will be secured on a proper footing: the correction of the abuse which prevails at present so injurious to men of genius and science surely deserves attention. Many books have been very well printed in Ireland; still a considerable quantity must be imported, and more than would be supposed from the following account — Indeed the mode of rating unbound books, viz. at 10l. per cwt. is not very satisfactory. A great number of books are carried into Ireland without being entered.

It appears that in ten years there was no great variation in the importation of writing paper into Ireland, but the quantity of printing paper was reduced above half. Several other sorts of paper are imported into Ireland, but not in quantities worth mentioning.

The late duties on paper in Britain have much enhanced the price of books, and debased

BOOKS, PAPER, &c. 257

based the paper on which they are printed. They are taxes on trade and learning. Ireland will undersell Britain in the article of paper.

An account of the books and paper imported into Ireland, on an average of three years, ending 25th March, 1773.

	Bound. Value.			Unbound.		
	£.	s.	d.	Cwt.	qr.	lb.
Books	183	10	1	201	0	2

	Pressing. Leaves.	Printing. Reams.	Writing. Reams.
Paper	57,168	11,295	5,077

Ditto of ditto, exported from Ireland, during three years, ending 25th of March, 1773:

	Books			Paper.
	Cwt.	qrs.	lb.	Reams.
1771	11	2	0	98
1772	7	1	0	
1773	31	3	21	

An account of books and paper imported into Ireland, on an average of three years, ending 25th March, 1783.

	Bound.			Unbound.		
	£.	s.	d.	Cwt.	qr.	lb.
Books	207	14	8 ¹ / ₄	271	1	10
	K k			Pressing.		

	Pressing. Leaves.	Printing. Reams.	Writing. Reams.
Paper	85,257	4,772	5,749

An account of books and paper exported from Ireland, during three years, ending 25th March, 1783.

	Bound. £. s. d.	Unbound. Cwt. q. lb.	Paper.	
			Writ. Reams.	Brown. Reams.
1781 Books	1 19 6	15 3 14	22	—
1782	- - -	55 0 14	200	—
1783	- - -	174 3 14	302	98

B E E R.

Notwithstanding the great increase of tillage in Ireland, and the improvements in husbandry, it is extraordinary that her importation of beer should increase so considerably, and her exportation decrease. There must be some bad management ; and until such matters are corrected, Ireland should not suffer her attention to be taken off to competitions of much difficulty and uncertainty. The duties paid in England on malt and hops are drawn back on exportation to Ireland, and even a bounty is given on malt, when barley is under 22s. per qr. The duty on beer and ale imported into

into Ireland is 4s. 1d. per barrel, of 32 gallons, and the charges of commission, freight, and insurance amounts to about 4s. per barrel. It is said the Irish brewer has a profit of 20 per cent. on English malt used in Ireland, compared with the London price. In the year ending 25th March, 1783, the quantity of beer imported from England was 51,405 barrels, and 190 barrels from Scotland.

Account of beer imported and exported from Ireland, on an average of three years, ending 25th March, 1773.

Import.	Export.
Barrels.	Barrels.
45,585 $\frac{1}{2}$	3,550

Account of beer imported into and exported from Ireland, on an average of three years, ending 25th March, 1783.

Import.	Export.
Barrels.	Barrels.
54,546 $\frac{2}{3}$	959

AGRICULTURE.

Agriculture, though last mentioned, certainly should be the first in estimation, as it is in real consequence. Yet it too often hap-

pens in most civilized countries of Europe, that this most essential pursuit of man is neglected, and the capital of the community being diverted to uncertain speculations, the country remains half tilled and half stocked. Manufactures should be considered as secondary to agriculture : and commerce, as resulting from both.

The agriculture of Ireland, although there may be many exceptions to the general rule, is very bad. The soil, however, does its part, or rather does almost the whole. It must, nevertheless be acknowledged, that a considerable improvement in husbandry has taken place, at least tillage has increased ; and within ten years Ireland has become an exporter of corn, and is likely to continue : but previous to 1776 she used to import corn, and sometimes very largely. It is the want of capital in the Irish farmers, as much as the want of a good system of husbandry, that prevents a better cultivation of the earth, and the poverty of the tenantry of Ireland is more hurtful than the supposed high rents *. To stock a well-sized

* The rent of Ireland appears high to an Englishman, who does not know that five Irish acres are equal to

sized farm, and to establish and pursue a good course of management, and of crops, requires such a capital, as is not to be often found among them. Consequently the farms are too large for their weak purse, and a small farm becomes a necessary evil in Ireland: but it is by no means intended to recommend the latter. The great farmer, of whom so many ignorantly complain in England, preserves us from scarcity or extravagant prices in summer; his opulence answers the purpose of public granaries. A good system of agriculture and intelligence, and riches among farmers, are the best granaries on which a country can depend, and neither produce expence nor abuse†. Such farmers are enabled to preserve part of their crop, and to wait the market of the ensuing summer. The little farmer, of very small capital, at the same time that he is the wretched sport of every

to eight English, and that no taxes whatever fall on the land, except a contribution to the highways of the district.

† The mills, which have been established within a few years in Ireland, are *her* best granaries. They are on a great scale, and are in the hands of very considerable gentlemen. They answer as a certain market to the farmer.

irregu-

irregularity of seasons, or of every trifling accident, is obliged to go to market with all his corn and all his produce, at the time the price is lowest, and before the winter is finished. A more pitiable creature does not live, even when compared with the lowest labourer. He exists under an unremitting succession of struggles and anxieties, useless to himself and hurtful to the public. For the soil in his hands is not sufficiently cultivated or half stocked, nor half the produce derived from it, that might be in the occupation of a more opulent man. The expence of cattle, husbandry utensils, of attendance, &c. are proportionably much greater than on one of a moderate size. The profit is consumed by the team of necessary cattle, on a small farm, or the land is not tilled, at least in due time.

It is therefore of essential consequence to divide lands properly, and to proportion the farm, (still taking care not to admit too small divisions) to the ability of the tenant, rather than to his eagerness for possessing much land; and although the tenants of an estate may not be according to the wishes of the landlord, it is neither humane nor prudent

prudent to expel them all, to introduce plausible adventurers, who, in the end, will generally give as little satisfaction as the native. The latter will cling to the soil, and although he may not have the means, or know the best method of deriving the greatest profit from the land, he will almost starve himself, to pay the rent. An intelligent landlord will find some among the tenants, fit to be brought forward; and notwithstanding the prospect may not be very promising, yet, by affording them due protection, with a little assistance, it is, perhaps, the best method that can be pursued.

The Dublin society, which, in every sense of the word, is the first institution of its kind in Europe, has not only been very serviceable as a Board of trade, manufacture, and useful arts, but has been particularly assistant to the agriculture of the country. Parliament supports the society with liberal grants, and the public has reason to be satisfied with the attention of the members; yet many years will pass before a good system of husbandry can be generally established in Ireland: that country is very much behind England in this respect, although a good mode of tillage is very far from general

ral in the latter. It is not necessary to enter into any detail as to the agriculture of Ireland, especially as Mr. Young has lately given so satisfactory an account of it. In consequence of the labours of that gentleman, the rural œconomy of England and Ireland is well known to the inhabitants of these kingdoms; it is an advantage which, perhaps, no country before so fully enjoyed. Some may think their neighbourhood not described to their mind, and that time enough has not been bestowed on each spot; and the attention of others will be confined to the business of remarking, that a bushel too much, or an acre too little, are mentioned. But while such observers thus amuse themselves, the politician will gain the information he wants; he will meet many good observations; and after an attentive examination of the facts which are stated, he will find himself possessed of a very competent knowledge of the country.

The import and export of corn, meal, and flour, at different periods, now remain to be compared; and this opportunity may be taken of observing, that the export, since the account was last made up, has been very great indeed. The demand from
Scot-

Scotland has been immense; and also for cattle; a very considerable number of the latter came to the Northern parts of England; but the quantity that went to Scotland is said greatly to have exceeded former exportations. The crop of corn in Ireland the last year was so good, as to be fully equal to the demand.

Great Britain would do well to adopt the reciprocal preference offered by the last corn act of Ireland, which is, that each kingdom, when its prices denote a probable scarcity, shall resort to the other for a supply, before she goes to foreigners. There is another circumstance worthy imitation in this bill, which is, that it does not admit flour into the ports of Ireland, when they are open for corn, by that means, the manufacture and advantage is reserved for her own mills, and the article is also better, because corn carries and keeps better in the state of grain than in flour. This judicious prohibition does not extend to ground corn or flour from Britain, but this exception is said to have happened inadvertently, and that there is an intention of making the prohibition general.

An account of corn and meal imported into Ireland, on an average of three years, ending 25th March, 1773.

Barley and Malt.		Beans and Peafe.		Oats.		Wheat.	
Quar.	Bush.	Quar.	Bush.	Quar.	Bush.	Quar.	Bush.
28,320	4 $\frac{2}{3}$	1,204	0	742	4	22,824	4

Flour.		Lbs.	Oatmeal.		Wheat meal.	
Cwt.	Qrs.		Barrels.		Barrels.	
61,127	1	21	9,906 $\frac{2}{3}$		2,457 $\frac{1}{3}$	

An account of corn and meal exported from Ireland, on an average of three years, ending 25th March, 1773.

Barley and Malt.		Beans and Peafe.		Oats.		Wheat.		Rye.
Qr.	Bush.	Qr.	Bush.	Qr.	Bush.	Qr.	Bush.	Qr.
3,222	4 $\frac{2}{3}$	194	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	11,478	2	1,011	1 $\frac{1}{3}$	0 17

Cwt.	Flour.		Lbs.	Oatmeal.		Groats.	
	Quar.			Barrels.		Barrels.	
151	3		9 $\frac{1}{3}$	15,787 $\frac{1}{3}$		14 $\frac{2}{3}$	

An account of corn and meal imported into Ireland, on an average of three years, ending 25th March, 1783.

Barley and Malt.		Beans and Peafe.		Oats.		Wheat.	
Quarters.	Bush.	Quar.	Bush.	Quar.	Bush.	Quar.	Bush.
38,550	4	411	2 $\frac{2}{3}$	490	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	649	2

Flour.

Flour.		Lbs.	Oatmeal.
Cwt.	Quar.		Brrrels.
22,208	0	25 $\frac{2}{3}$	3,466 $\frac{1}{6}$

An account of corn and meal exported from Ireland, on an average of three years, ending 25th March, 1783.

Barley and Malt.		Beans and Pease.		Oats.		Wheat.	
Qrs.	Bush.	Qrs.	Bush.	Qrs.	Bush.	Qrs.	Bush.
9,848	2 $\frac{1}{3}$	1645	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	53,285	6 $\frac{2}{3}$	30,123	6 $\frac{2}{3}$

Cwt.	Flour.	Lbs.	Groats.	Oatmeal.	Wheat Meal.
	Qrs.		Barrels.	Barrels.	Barrels.
85,284	3	11 $\frac{2}{3}$	7 $\frac{2}{3}$	11,577 $\frac{3}{4}$	66 $\frac{2}{3}$

G E N E R A L T R A D E.

We now come to inquire into the external commerce of Ireland. The examination of what it has been, will give a very imperfect idea of the extension it is capable of. It seems at present likely to outstrip her internal trade; and care should be taken that the latter, which is of the greatest consequence, be not neglected.

The general trade of Ireland has increased greatly, and it will increase much more: she has had a favourable balance* on the whole of her commerce, during this century, according to her own Custom-house accounts, on averages of five or ten years, and even on the years separately, except the following, when the balance against her was,

			£.	s.	d.
In the year	1701	- -	21,902	6	3
	1706	- -	71,742	18	4
	1709	- -	3,719	1	7
	1724	- -	12,187	1	0

But in the year of the peace, viz. the year ending 25th March, 1783, the imports rose high,

			£.	s.	d.
Imports	- -	3,011,771	17	3	$\frac{1}{4}$
Exports	- -	2,903,732	8	4	$\frac{1}{2}$
Balance against Ireland -			108,039	8	10 $\frac{3}{4}$

* Even before the year 1750, it amounted some years to upwards of 400,000*l.* and in 1747, to 798,230*l.*

Yet

Yet on an average of seven years, the balance was in her favour. The extraordinary import in that year, partly happened from the effect of peace, and partly from the necessity of compleating stock to supply the deficiency of imports in preceding years, particularly in 1779 and 1780, when they were very considerably lower than usual. The table, No. III. shews the trade of Ireland with all parts by decennial averages, from 1700 to 1760, distinguishes the years from that period to the present.

The Essay on the Trade of Ireland, published in 1729, by Mr. Dobbs, observes, that it is probable the exports of Ireland, during the period from the Restoration to the Revolution, did not exceed 600,000*l*. In the year 1681,

				£.
The exports were	-	-	-	582,814
Imports	-	-		433,040
				<hr/>
Balance in favour of Ireland				149,774

It is well known how much Ireland suffered by the war of the Revolution; and it is not extraordinary, that in 1695, three
years

years only after peace was restored, that there should be a balance against Ireland of 95,932*l*.

		<i>£</i> .
Her exports that year were	-	295,592
Imports	-	391,524

Her stock of cattle and sheep had been neglected and destroyed during the war, and her trade had been principally in the produce of them; but in three years afterwards, viz. 1698,

		<i>£</i> .
Her exports rose to	-	996,305
Imports	-	576,863
Balance in favour of Ireland		<u>419,442</u>

In the following year, 1699, came on the violent restriction of her woollen trade; and in 1700,

		<i>£</i> .
Her exports were	-	814,745
Imports	-	792,473
Balance in favour of Ireland only	-	<u>22,272</u>

But

But the next year, viz. 1701, was one of the very few years in which the balance of trade was against Ireland ;

Exports	-	-	£. 670,412
Imports	-	-	692,314
			<hr/>
Balance against Ireland	-		22,902

It is difficult at this distance of time to discover whence arose this great alteration in her trade, unless it can be in part imputed to the war which began at that time*. It was partly caused by the restrictions on her woollens; but that could not produce near the effect we have observed; for the greatest export of woollens from Ireland, viz. in 1687, did not exceed in value 70,521*l.* and in the year previous to the prohibition, viz. 1698, it was only 23,614*l.*†. and at the same time it should be remarked, that the whole

* The very sudden and rapid increase in 1697 and 98 may be, in great measure, ascribed to the peace of Ryf-wick, which certainly had enlivened commerce.

† This calculation is taken from Smith's Memoirs on wool. It seems very low; however if it were doubled, it would go but a little way in accounting for the alteration.

value of old and new drapery imported from England in 1698, was only 9,612l. 13s 9d. and in the year 1701 it had only risen to 16,163l. 8s. 9d. But this will be more particularly detailed under the article, Woollen Manufacture.

It appears from Tables, No. III. and IV. how greatly the trade has increased during this century, and in a regular progression, the best proof of a well-established commerce, except the period from 1720 to 1730, during which there is a decrease from that of the preceding ten years, to the amount, on the average, of about 110,000l. a year. It has, in 80 years, increased more in proportion than the trade of England, and, perhaps, if it could be ascertained, we should find that the external trade of Ireland is, in proportion to her capital, greater than that of England; but Ireland is far behind as to internal trade, and until there is an improvement in that respect, she cannot expect to see her people fully employed, or in possession of any general affluence.

Her

Her progress in the present æra is great and rapid; in general her imports of manufactured goods decrease, and her exports of manufactures increase. Her trade to all parts must advance very much—Her spirits are now alive to improvements, and if they take a right turn, the country will be highly benefited. It is probable she will send more to every country than she has done, particularly to America and the West Indies. She will supply herself with foreign and colonial commodities to a greater extent than she does now; but unless Britain relinquishes that principle of the navigation laws which makes her the mart for those articles, Ireland will not become the entrepot of them. However interesting, it is unnecessary to repeat the arguments on that head, or to point out the various bad consequences that would result from it; nor, in truth, is the measure in question necessary to the prosperity of Ireland. The West Indies and North America take of every thing that Ireland produces or manufactures. The markets of the Plantations and New States are more likely to find a demand for her manufactures, than the well-supplied markets of Britain.

Ireland, very properly, considers the last year's system of taxing manufactures in Great Britain, as bounties in favour of her manufactures ; and so do the oppressed manufacturers of Manchester, Glasgow, Paisley, &c. many of whom, and in very respectable situations, have, since June last, made offers to go and establish themselves and their manufactures in Ireland. The Minister should learn, that although duties or taxes are drawn back on exportation, they are a very great weight on trade—and among other instances, by the much greater capital which is necessarily employed, the extension of the manufacture is prevented.* The manufacturer cannot speculate : he will not make goods till ordered. Men of small capitals cannot undertake business, and an oppressive advantage is given to great capitals. Ireland has not these disadvantages—on the contrary, her manufacturers possess every facility and encouragement that were ever known in any country. There is one exception, however, as to external trade, a remain of the old mode of treating customs, chiefly, as a matter of

* There are manufacturers in Lancashire, who pay above 40,000*l.* yearly to the Excise.

revenue. She still lays five per cent. on *all* exports, and ten per cent. on *all* imports, with very few exceptions.

The general import trade of Ireland is carried on at Waterford, Dublin, Belfast, Derry, and Limerick, through which places the kingdom is principally supplied, and Cork, in comparison to her considerable state of commerce in other respects, has not her proportion of the import trade. The country she has to supply is not considerable in point of population. This is no small disadvantage to that city; but her port and situation will always make her a first-rate place for trade. It is, however, to be lamented that her trade is not more steady and equal. The difference of demand for provisions in peace and war, does not sufficiently account for the inequality, as has appeared under the article, provision trade. The sudden Peace undoubtedly caused a very considerable check, from the great stock of provisions prepared and preparing, which were thrown back upon the dealers, factors, and importers. The great quantity of government stores on hand were to be sold, and the garrisons and islands were filled with provisions; but the late languid state of

M m 2

trade

trade at Cork is perhaps much more to be imputed to the check to credit, which, and the great demand for money, possibly now affect her more, than the pacification. There are, however, satisfactory reasons to believe that her exertions are again beginning to have full scope and success.

Although the balance of trade is in favour of Ireland with most countries, it is constantly against her with Norway, Denmark, Sweden, and the East Country. It is often so in the trade with France, the import of claret exceeding the export of beef and pork to that country; and sometimes the balance is against her with Holland and Flanders. A separate view will be given of the trade to each country; and on every account will be proper to begin with the trade to Great Britain, with which country the commerce of Ireland is very great indeed; so much so, that when her trade with all other countries is compared to it, it seems a mere trifle.

T A B L E. No. III.

Exports and Imports of Ireland, to and from all Parts, from 1700, to 1783 inclusive.

Average of ten years.	EXPORTS.			IMPORTS.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
From 1700, to 1710.	553023	16	0	513657	17	2½
Ditto from 1710, to 1720.	1126670	6	11¾	852905	7	11½
Ditto from 1720, to 1730.	1019809	3	2¼	856936	6	8
Ditto from 1730, to 1740.	1190253	3	4½	885044	8	2
Ditto from 1740, to 1750.	1485110	18	3	1123373	1	8
Ditto from 1750, to 1760.	2002354	5	10¼	1594164	7	1½
1760	2139388	1	0⅞	1647592	1	3⅞
1761	2244951	17	10	1527903	2	2⅞
1762	2438926	2	0½	1914798	6	11⅞
1763	2279926	4	5	1818433	6	4
1764	2595229	5	4½	2216274	7	10⅞
1765	2492064	18	1½	2130810	7	1½
1773	2971345	15	8¾	2417613	10	1½
1774	2833055	7	7¾	2358032	4	6½
1775	3143038	1	0⅞	2508415	9	1½
1776	3160748	13	5¾	2654558	2	5½
1777	3148132	1	11¾	3123928	18	1
1778	3262801	7	9¼	2836802	12	11
1779	2727114	13	4	2195935	1	7½
1780	3012178	13	9¼	2127579	9	7½
1781	2896035	7	1	3123051	9	7
1782	3400598	10	2½	2994265	17	8
1783	2903732	8	4½	3011771	17	3¼

TRADE WITH ENGLAND.

Perhaps a more striking instance of the unsatisfactoriness of custom-house accounts does not occur than in their state of the trade between England and Ireland. It is generally supposed that the balance has been in favour of England from 4 or 500,000*l.* to 1,000,000*l.* yearly, and that it had been always greatly in her favour; but the contrary has been the case, two or three years excepted. The Irish custom-house accounts are in this matter much nearer to the truth than the English. The articles are rated below the value, but not very considerably: the difference and the deception arise from the manner of valuing Irish linens in the ports of England. In the latter they are averaged and valued at 8*d.* per yard. In Ireland they are valued from 15*d.* to 17*d.* per yard, which, considering the proportion of fine linens sent from that country, is below the real value. This at once explains the difference of the English and Irish state of the balance of trade between the two countries, and it is obvious how great the

the difference must be when we consider that the linens exported from Ireland generally are more than half of the whole export from that kingdom, and that they are rated in England at less than one half of their value. Also worsted and linen yarn, butter, hides, &c. which are principal exports, are rated very considerably lower in the English custom-house accounts.

Thus for example, taking the year 1777: 21,181,065 yards imported into England from Ireland, are valued in the English custom-house accounts at 706,035*l.* 10*s.* *, and in the same year the Irish custom-house accounts value the linen exported to England at 1,387,584*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.* †.

Accord-

* All accounts laid before Parliament by the Inspector General, are said to be made up, viz. goods exported according to their current price at home, imported according to their current price abroad—freight, therefore, is not included in these valuations—The gains upon freight are distinct and additional both upon import and export.

† No custom being paid on export of linen from Ireland, there is not a minute attention to the exact quantity entered for exportation; and it is said more is entered than exported; on the other hand, to save
a trifling

According to the custom-house accounts given by Sir Francis Brewer in his Effays on trade, the average exports of Ireland to England for six years, ending 1681, were,

	£.
Exports - - - -	231,554
Imports from England - -	346,800
Balance in favour of England -	115,246
Of the imports from foreign parts	
about - - - -	86,000
In 1681, Ireland exported of yarn	
and manufacture to the amount of	69,000
Of which linen yarn - -	12,000
Woollen ditto - - -	3,000
which two last articles were manufactured	
to advantage in England.	

About 50,000l. of the 69,000 were in frizes, much of which went to England,

a trifling duty or murage at Chester of 1d. or 2d. per piece, a smaller quantity is entered for the fair than really goes—but the quantity entered at the Custom-house of England is said to be exact; therefore by doubling the value, that is, from 8d. to 16d. per yard, perhaps we arrive nearest the truth, which cannot be minutely ascertained, because the Custom-house accounts of Great Britain and Ireland, cannot be exactly compared: the British are made up to Christmas, the Irish to Lady Day.

and

and was improved by new dressing and napping; besides these, there was not above 4000*l.* in value, of Irish manufacture exported.

In 1695, the manufactures of Ireland exported were in value 30,463*l.* of which woollen and linen yarn amounted to 20,075*l.* which exceeds the quantity of those articles exported before the preceding war, (as appears in the last article,) above 5000*l.*

	£.	s.	d.
In 1696, imports from Eng-			
land - - -	233,543	18	4
Imports from foreign parts	101,419	16	8
In 1697, imports from Eng-			
land - - -	290,892	16	7
Imports from foreign parts	132,290	0	0

The exports this year to England of manufactures and woollen and linen yarn, principally the two last, amounted to 83,807*l.* and were consequently advantageous to England, as she improved them.

	£.	s.	d.
In 1698, imports from			
England - -	385,797	1	5½
Imports from foreign parts	191,066	0	0
N n			This

This year the amount of manufactures sent to England of the same sort as before, rose to 155,595*l*.

The table No. IV. gives the trade of Ireland with Great Britain for the last thirty-four years; from which it appears, that the balance in favour of Ireland has varied from 4 to 800,000*l*.; and there has been this balance against Great Britain, notwithstanding the trade with that part of it called Scotland was considerably against Ireland.

The following shews the great difference of value between the imports into Great Britain and Ireland of the product and manufactures of each country:

Value of imports into Ireland of the growth and manufacture of Great Britain, average of three years ending 25th March, 1782, 1,218,704*l*. 18*s*. 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ *d*.

Value of exports of the growth and manufacture of Ireland to Great Britain, average for same years, 2,420,425*l*. 6*s*. 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ *d*.

The table No. I. has shewn how great a proportion of the whole trade to Great Britain

tain consisted in linens and linen and wool-
len yarn for 10 years ending 25th March,
1783, distinguishing each article and year.

The table No. V. gives the quantities and
value of Asiatic goods exported from Great
Britain into Ireland for three years, end-
ing 25th March, 1783, distinguishing each
sort.

	£.
The value of the total imports from Great Britain into Ire- land in 1781 - - -	2,432,417
Whereof the growth, product, or manufacture of Britain -	1,486,317
Remains of foreign - - -	946,100
Whereof African, American, and Asiatic, about - - -	800,000
Remains of other countries - -	146,100

The tables No. VI. and VII. give the
detail of the whole trade between England
and Ireland, viz. the exports and imports
for the year ending 25th March, 1783, dis-
tinguishing each article, its quantity and

N n 2 value.

value. They are principally intended to shew the articles which form the commerce of the two countries, and the mode of valuing them in the custom house of Ireland.

The two last are the Irish custom-house accounts, and seem more exact and correct than such accounts usually are.

The following is the English custom-house account of the trade between England and Ireland for the year 1783. It has already been remarked, how extremely defective the English accounts are in the valuation of imports from Ireland, and what a false balance consequently is given.

An account of the value of the goods and manufactures exported from England to Ireland, from 5th January, 1783, to 5th January, 1784; also an account of the value of the goods imported from Ireland into England in the above period.

Exported

Exported to Ireland.
British manufactures and produce.

			£.	s.	d.
London	-	-	84,698	4	7
Out-ports	-	-	914,318	9	9
			<hr/>		
			999,016	14	4
Foreign goods from } London }			598,722	10	10
London ditto, Out- } ports }			549,624	12	4
			<hr/>		
Total			2,147,363	17	6

Imported from Ireland.
Irish manufactures and produce.

			£.	s.	d.
London	-	-	687,489	6	2
Out-ports	-	-	811,739	7	7
			<hr/>		
			1,499,228	13	9
			<hr/>		

No. IV.

An account of the value of all goods and merchandize imported from, and exported to, Great Britain, from Ireland, for the following years, ending 25th March.

Export.				Import.			
	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
1750	1,069,364	1	2 $\frac{5}{8}$		920,340	17	0 $\frac{3}{4}$
1751	1,229,718	5	5		1,025,677	3	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
1752	1,228,992	11	5 $\frac{3}{8}$		1,106,577	17	10 $\frac{3}{4}$
1753	1,142,640	2	11 $\frac{1}{8}$		978,144	3	7 $\frac{7}{8}$
1754	1,206,791	16	2 $\frac{5}{8}$		1,122,651	14	2 $\frac{3}{8}$
1755	1,312,176	2	6 $\frac{3}{4}$		1,039,911	10	4 $\frac{3}{8}$
1756	1,146,703	19	11		912,560	16	4 $\frac{1}{4}$
1757	1,480,174	5	0		958,194	8	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
1758	1,462,695	15	3 $\frac{3}{8}$		1,093,001	1	5 $\frac{1}{4}$
1759	1,466,437	0	2 $\frac{1}{4}$		996,001	15	11 $\frac{3}{8}$
1760	1,450,757	8	6 $\frac{7}{8}$		1,094,752	12	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
1761	1,494,499	8	2 $\frac{1}{4}$		1,096,989	9	2
1762	1,649,295	4	5 $\frac{1}{4}$		1,338,325	8	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
1763	1,562,400	9	11		1,284,891	2	8 $\frac{7}{8}$
1764	1,682,196	2	3		1,567,683	1	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
1765	1,693,197	5	7		1,439,969	4	8 $\frac{3}{4}$
1769	2,266,151	17	4 $\frac{3}{4}$		1,776,996	1	3 $\frac{3}{4}$
1770	2,408,838	12	4 $\frac{3}{4}$		1,878,599	6	11
1771	2,514,039	13	4		1,806,732	15	6
1772	2,405,507	8	1 $\frac{3}{4}$		1,586,623	17	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
1773	2,178,664	1	4 $\frac{1}{4}$		1,679,212	5	3
1774	2,117,695	11	8 $\frac{1}{4}$		1,711,174	13	7 $\frac{1}{4}$
1775	2,379,858	9	8 $\frac{1}{4}$		1,739,543	18	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
1776	2,551,211	11	3 $\frac{3}{4}$		1,875,525	12	8 $\frac{1}{4}$
1777	2,552,296	18	4 $\frac{3}{4}$		2,233,192	7	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
1778	2,718,145	18	1 $\frac{3}{4}$		2,076,460	16	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
1779	2,256,659	0	5		1,644,770	17	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
1880	2,384,898	16	7		1,576,635	13	5 $\frac{1}{4}$
1781	2,187,406	15	0 $\frac{1}{4}$		2,432,417	13	10
1782	2,709,766	18	2 $\frac{1}{4}$		2,277,946	10	8 $\frac{1}{4}$
1783	1,989,290	6	9		2,320,455	18	7 $\frac{1}{4}$

N. B. This Table is formed from the Irish custom house accounts.

An Account of Goods and Merchandize, being the
from thence exported to the Kingdom of Ireland,
inclusive, each Year distinguished with the particu
imported into Ireland during the said three Years.

Denominations.					Quantit
Drugs	—	—	—	Value.	—
	Cinnamon	—	—	Lbs.	7323
Groceries	Cloves	—	—	Lbs.	1943
	Mace	—	—	Lbs.	1944
	Nutmegs	—	—	Lbs.	7176
	Pepper	—	—	Lbs.	5372
	Piamento	—	—	Lbs.	555
	Rice	—	—	C. q. lb.	766 0
India Silks and Stuffs	—	—	—	Value.	—
Callico	Stained	—	—	Yards.	1585
	White	—	—	Yards.	402
Muslin	—	—	—	Yards.	74220
Saltpetre	—	—	—	C. q. lb.	911 3
China—Raw Silks	—	—	—	Lbs. oz.	68429
Tea -	Bohea	—	—	Lbs.	12245
	Green	—	—	Lbs.	51712

N. B. China Ware is omitted in this Account
with Earthen Ware from England.

An Account of Goods and Merchandize, being the Growth, Product, or Manufacture of Asia, imported into Great Britain, and from thence exported to the Kingdom of Ireland, for three Years, from 25th of March, 1780, inclusive, to 25th of March, 1783, inclusive, each Year distinguished with the particular Value of each Commodity in each Year; and total Value of the whole Quantity imported into Ireland during the said three Years.

Denominations.		Years ending the 25th of March.						Total Value of Three Years.
		1781.		1782.		1783.		
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	
			£. s. d.		£. s. d.		£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Drugs	Value.	—	7677 1 9½	—	10121 7 6½	—	9121 2 4	26919 11 8
	Lbs.	7323	2929 4 0	222½	89 2 0	634	252 8 0	3270 14 0
	Lbs.	1943	971 10 0	562	281 0 0	561	280 10 0	1533 0 0
	Lbs.	1944	1620 0 0	272½	226 17 6	788	656 13 4	2503 10 10
Groceries	Lbs.	7176	3588 0 0	3539	1769 10 0	5388	2694 0 0	8051 10 0
	Lbs.	53727	3581 16 0	43401½	2893 9 0	62719	4181 5 4	10656 10 4
	Lbs.	555	27 15 0	5392	269 12 0	2082	104 2 0	401 9 0
	C. q. lb.	766 0 7	609 9 1½	820 1 14	738 6 9	9 3 14	8 17 9	1436 13 7½
India Silks and Stuffs	Value.	—	3 15 0	—	—	—	—	3 15 0
Callico	Yards.	1585	396 5 0	1836	459 0 0	1203	300 15 0	1156 0 0
	Yards.	402	80 8 0	860	172 0 0	480	96 0 0	348 8 0
Muffin	Yards.	74220½	12370 1 8	51041	9006 16 8	37272	6522 12 0	27899 10 4
Saltpetre	C. q. lb.	911 3 0	2279 7 6	889 1 14	2248 8 9	1665 1 7	4163 5 7½	8691 1 10½
China—Raw Silks	Lbs. oz.	68429 0	68429 0 0	46694 4	46694 3 4	32656 0	32656 0 0	147779 3 4
	Lbs.	1224506	122450 12 0	887767	88776 14 0	1478080	147808 0 0	359035 6 0
Tea	Lbs.	517127	155138 2 0	433248	129974 8 0	570838	171251 8 0	456303 18 0
								£. 1056050 2 0½

N. B. China Ware is omitted in this Account, being confounded with Earthen Ware from England.

No. VI.

EXPORTS from IRELAND to that Part of Great Britain called ENGLAND, for the Year ending March 25, 1783; distinguishing each Article, its Quantity and Value.

Denominations.		Quantities.	Medium of the current Market Price.		Total Value.
			£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
Bacon	{ Hams Fitches	298 0 7	at 1 10 0 per cwt	447 1 10½	
Beer	—	5518	0 15 0 each	4138 10 0	
	—	88½	0 10 0 per barrel	44 6 8	
Beef	{ Barrels Carcasses	68491½	1 10 0 each	102736 15 0	
	—	2	4 0 0 each	8 0 0	
Bottles of Glafs	—	8½	0 18 0 per dozen	7 10 0	
Boards, Barrels	—	45 - -	0 10 0 per cwt.	22 10 0	
Books, bound and unbound	—	73 3 14	2 10 0 do.	184 13 9	
Bread	—	464 3 -	0 12 0 do.	278 17 0	
Bullocks and Cows	—	160	5 0 0 each	800 0 0	
Barrels empty	—	500	0 5 0 do.	125 0 0	
Butter	—	108871 3 -	2 0 0 per cwt.	217743 10 0	
Candles	—	71 2 -	1 16 8 do.	131 1 8	
Cheefe	—	85 - 21	1 0 0 do.	85 3 9	
Coaches and Coachmakers' Work	—	40 - -	3 10 0 per ton	40 0 0	
Copper Ore	—	37½	1 12 0 per quarter	132 2 6	
Barley	—	14758	1 0 0 do.	23612 16 0	
Beans	—	355	0 9 9 do.	353 0 0	
Oats	—	15742	1 0 0 do.	7674 4 6	
Penfe	—	8	2 4 0 do.	8 0 0	
Wheat	—	2954		6498 16 0	

Denominations.		Quantities.	Medium of the current Market Price.		Total Value.
			£. s. d.		£. s. d.
Feathers	—	45 1	at 2 0 0	per cwt.	90 10 0
Fish { Herrings	—	823 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 15 0	per barrel	617 10 0
{ Ling	—	2 2 2	3 0 0	per cwt.	7 11 2 $\frac{1}{2}$
{ Salmon	—	53 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 0 0	per ton	639 0 0
Flax Seed, Irish	—	42	1 10 0	per hhd.	63 0 0
Glue	—	746 1 14	1 13 4	per cwt.	1243 19 2
Maherdanery Ware	—	1 14 11			1 14 11
Hair { Goats	—	1 7	3 0 0	per lb.	174 0 0
{ Human	—	58	1 0 0	each	642 0 0
Hogs	—	642	1 10 0	per cwt.	5362 10 0
Hog's lard	—	3575	6 0 0	each	222 0 0
Horses	—	37	0 16 8	per cwt.	555 18 2
Horns { Ox and Cows	—	667 18	0 6 8	do.	7 6 8
{ Tips	—	22	1 13 4	each	558 6 8
Hides { Tanned	—	335	1 6 8	each	66938 13 4
{ Untanned	—	50204	16 15 0	per ton	51 1 9
Iron	—	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ 0			59 0 0
Ironmongers' Ware	—	59 - -	1 10 0	do.	1842 0 0
Kelp	—	1228	2 6 8	do.	0 15 7
Lead Ore	—	$\frac{1}{2}$	0 1 4	per yard	948180 9 4
Linen Cloth	—	14222707	0 15 0	per cwt.	4609 17 6
Meal { Flour	—	6146 2 -	0 10 6	per barrel	4 14 6
{ Oats	—	9	0 6 8	per thousand	24 0 0
Ox { Bones	—	72	0 16 8	per barrel	113 6 8
{ Guts	—	136	1 10 0	do.	61283 14 0
Pork	—	40855 $\frac{1}{2}$			

Denominations.		Quantities.	Medium of the current Market Price.		Total Value.
			at £.	s. d.	£. s. d.
Rabbits' Furs	—	5539	0	5	0
Rape Seed	—	3283	1	12	6
Salt	—	80	0	1	3
Silk Manufacture	—	229	5	0	0
Calf	—	1780	1	2	6
Goat	—	37	6	0	0
Kid	—	21	3	2	6
Lamb	—	2216	2	5	0
Rabbit	—	77	1	5	6
Skins	—	133	1	13	4
Sole	—	30040	2	0	0
Tallow	—	963	0	12	0
Tongues	—	70	0	0	0
Wooden Ware	—	2063	0	10	0
Wool	—	34002	6	0	0
Linen Yarn	—	2436	0	1	0
Yarn { Cotton	—	66418	1	10	0
Worsted	—	5916	13	0	0
Small Parcels	—				
					£. 1865392 14 8

No. VII.

IMPORTS into IRELAND, from that Part of Great Britain called ENGLAND, for the Year ending 25 March, 1783; distinguishing each Article, its Quantity and Value.

Denominations.		Quantities.	Medium of the current Market Price.		Total.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Ale	—	2669 $\frac{7}{12}$	at 1 0 0 per barrel	2669 7 8	
Apparel	—	254 15 10		254 15 10	
Apples	—	17		2 11 0	
Arms	—	1039 4 7	0 3 4 per bushel	1039 4 7	
Bacon	{ English	47 •	0 13 4 per flitch	31 8 4	
	{ Foreign	4 1 7	2 0 0 per cwt.	8 12 6	
Bark	—	884 17 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 7 0 per barrel	30946 2 6	
Battery	—	1159 0 21	7 5 0 per cwt.	8400 12 0	
Beer	—	51405 $\frac{5}{16}$	1 0 0 per barrel	51505 2 1	
Books	{ Bound	126 7 10		126 7 10	
	{ Unbound	228 3 7	10 0 0 per cwt.	2288 2 6	
Bullion Silver	—	19340 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 6 8 per oz.	6513 8 4	
Berries Juniper	—	52 1 14	2 0 0 per cwt.	104 15 0	
Bottles of Glafs	—	38755	0 1 6 per doz.	6656 12 0	
Brafs Shruif	—	67 1	3 0 0 per cwt.	202 15 0	
Bricks	—	223	1 10 0 per M.	334 10 0	
Brinftone	—	686 3 14	0 16 8 per cwt.	571 13 4	
Candlewick	—	490 2 14	3 5 0 per cwt.	1594 10 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Capers	—	2	0 0 8 per lb.	0 1 4	
Cards, Wool	—	966 2	0 8 0 per doz.	386 9 4	
Chalk	—	2241 0 7	1 0 0 per cwt.	2241 1 3	
Cheefe	—	3627 2 21	1 10 0 do.	5440 16 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	

Denominations.	Quantities.	Medium of the current Market Price.			Total.		
		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Chocolate	12	at 0	2	6	per lb.	1	10 0
Coaches, Chaises, &c.	3421 15						
Coals	220284 $\frac{3}{8}$				3421	15	0
Coffee	482 1 14	0	15	0	165213	12	6
Copper Plates and Bricks	1450 2 7	10	0	0	2823	15	0
Cordage	449 3 21	5	0	0	7253	2	6
Cork	22 1 0	1	3	4	524	18	8
Barley and Malt	23300 $\frac{3}{4}$	3	10	0	77	17	6
Peas and Peafe	503 $\frac{3}{4}$	1	2	0	25630	16	6
Oats	856	1	5	0	629	13	3
Wheat	518 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	15	0	642	0	0
New	499084	2	3	4	1122	6	8
Old	371702 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	2	6	5135	10	0
Shag	1182 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	14	0	260191	15	6
Drugs	9120 19 10	0	4	0	236	9	0
Allum	2571 3	0	13	0	9120	19	10
Annotto	18 1 7	0	18	0	1671	12	9
Argal	23 0 0	1	2	0	16	19	8
Braziletto	65 1 14	0	14	0	25	6	0
Cochineal	4524	0	14	0	45	15	3
Copperas	3723 2	1	0	0	4524	0	0
Fustick	797 3	0	6	8	1241	3	4
Galls	58 1	0	14	0	558	8	6
Indigo	48998	3	0	0	174	15	0
Logwood	2459 1 7	0	6	8	16332	13	4
Madder	200 0 21	2	5	0	5533	9	0 $\frac{3}{4}$
Orchall	318 0 0	1	5	0	250	4	6 $\frac{3}{4}$
		1	2	0	349	16	0

Denominations.		Quantities.	Medium of the current Market Price.		Total.
			£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
Dying Stuffs.	Redwood	3890 0 14	at 2 0 0	per cwt.	7780 5 0
	Sanders	35 0 7	6 0 0	do.	210 0 0
	Shumick	648 3 0	0 13 4	do.	432 10 0
	Smalts	2508	0 1 0	per lb.	125 8 0
	Stone Blue	112	0 0 7	do.	3 5 4
Earthen Ware	Weeds or Straw Weed	61 1 21	0 7 0	per cwt.	21 9 2½
	Wood	102	0 15 0	do.	76 10 0
	Small Parcels	1160 1 6			1160 1 6
	Value	19433 13 5½			19433 13 5½
	Elephant's Teeth	389	0 5 0	each	97 5 0
Fish	Fans	735	0 1 8	each	61 5 0
	Anchovies	2	0 16 0	per barrel	1 12 0
	Herrings	1030	1 0 0	do.	1030 0 0
	Oysters	5	0 2 0	per gallon	0 10 0
	Sturgeon	13	0 12 0	per keg	7 16 0
Flax	Dressed	7 3 21	2 0 0	per cwt.	15 17 6
	Undressed	2006 1 21	1 15 0	do.	3511 5 4½
	Flints	12216	0 2 6	per M.	15 6 0
	Furs	336 4 10	0 15 0	per end	336 4 10
	Fullians	5184½	1 10 0	each	3888 13 1½
Glas -	Cafes	2183½	0 0 2	each	3274 15 0
	Drinking	29032	0 0 2	each	241 18 0
	Vials	4160	0 6 8	per hundred	13 17 4
	Glas Ware	3883 0 3½			3883 0 3½
	Gloves	743	0 3 0	per pair	111 9 0
Grindstones		477½	0 16 8	per chalders	39 3 4

Denominations.	Quantities.	Medium of the current Market Price.	Total.
Almonds	35 1 7	£. s. d. at 2 15 0 per cwt.	£. s. d. 97 2 2 $\frac{1}{4}$
Aniseeds	15 0 14	1 6 8 do.	20 3 4
Cinnamon	631	0 8 0 per lb.	252 8 0
Cloves	561	0 10 0 do.	280 10 0
Cocoa Nuts	1127	0 1 0 do.	56 7 0
Currants	691 1 7	2 5 0 per cwt.	1555 9 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Figs	90 0 0	0 12 6 do.	56 5 0
Ginger	190 1 21	1 10 0 do.	285 13 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Hulled Barley	4 0 0	1 2 0 do.	4 8 0
Liquorice	197 0 21.	1 2 0 do.	216 18 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Mace	788	0 16 8 per lb.	656 13 4
Nutmegs	5388	0 10 0 do.	2694 0 0
Pepper	62719	0 1 4 do.	4181 5 0
Pianinto	2082	0 1 0 do.	104 2 0
Prunes	632 0 0	0 6 8 per cwt.	210 13 4
Raffius	121 1 0	1 4 0 do.	145 6 0
Rice	9 3 14	0 18 0 do.	8 17 9
Saffron	80	1 10 0 per lb.	120 0 0
Succards	235	0 3 0 do.	35 5 0
Succus Liquoritiæ	6	0 0 8 do.	2 8 0
Sugar { Candy	4 0 0	4 0 0 per cwt.	16 0 0
Loaf	9352 3 7	6 0 0 do.	56116 17 6
Muscovade	89124 2 14	2 5 0 do.	200530 8 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Small Parcels	2639 16 0		2639 16 0
Gunpowder	396 1 0	3 5 0 do.	1287 16 3
Haber- { Gold and Silver Twilt.	116	0 4 6 per ounce	26 2 0
dathery { Inkle wrought	13	0 5 2 per lb.	3 7 2

Groceries

Gunpowder

Haber- { Gold and Silver Twilt.

dathery { Inkle wrought

Denominations.		Quantities.	Medium of the current Market Price.		Total.	
			£.	s. d.	£.	
Haberdashery	Laces	1017 3 0	at 0	3 6	per grofs 178 0 4½	
	Needles	340 5⅙	3	2 6	per dozen 1102 17 7½	
	Pins	332 5	0 18	0	do. 298 16 0	
	Thimbles	178264	2	0 0	per thousand 356 8 10	
	Thread	Gold and Silver	1594 4	2	0 0	per lb. 3188 10 0
		Outnall	1730¼	0 5	6	do. 475 15 0
	Small Parcels	Sifters	74½	0 15	0	do. 55 10 0
		Whited brown	38	0 2	8 60.	do. 5 1 4
	Hair	Camel's	10031 15 5½	0 8	0	do. 10031 15 5½
		Goat's	342	0 2	6	do. 136 16 0
Watts			4119	0 15	0	each 514 17 6
			3913	0 15	6	per cwt. 2934 15 0
Hemp, untressed		2193 0 0	2 10	0	per hoghead 298 15 0	
Hemp Seed		119½	5 0	0	per cwt. 56767 16 3	
Hops		11353 2 7	10 0	0	each 150 0 0	
Horfes		15	0 16	0	per cwt. 21758 5 6½	
Hardware		Value	21758 5 6½	0 0	3	each 49554 16 0
		C. q. lb.	61943 2 0	0 2	0	each 7244 9 9
Ironmongers' Ware.	Iron	579557	0 5	0	do. 808 18 0	
	Knives	8589	0 0	6	do. 187 0 0	
	Merimits	748	0 0	6	do. 371 12 6	
	Pots	14865	1 5	0	per grofs 947 3 9	
	Razors	757 9	1 0	0	per dozen 4089 0 0	
	Scillars	4089				23636 16 11½
	Scythes	23636 16 11½	0 15	0	per ton 242 5 0	
	Small Parcels	323	0 12	0	per lb. 381 3 0	
	Iron Ore	635½				
	Ivory, wrought					

Denominations.		Quantities.	Medium of the current Market Price.			Total.
			£.	s.	d.	
Lace { Gold and Silver	—	68 3	at 4	0	0 per lb.	£. 272 15 0
Lamp { Thread Bone	—	2333	0 1	0	per yard	116 13 0
Lamp Black	—	3741½	0 1	2	per lb.	218 5 1
Latten	—	8 0 7	6 0	0	per cwt.	48 7 6
Lead { Pig	—	6452 1 21	0 10	6	do.	3387 10 7
	—	770 3 21	4 5	0	do.	3276 9 8½
	—	1407 0 14	0 13	4	do.	961 9 7½
	—	744 2 7	0 15	0	do.	458 8 5¼
Shot	—	1735 3 7	1 6	8	do.	2114 8 4
	—	10 0 0	4 0	0	per ton	40 0 0
White	—	882	0 2	0	per gallon	88 4 0
Lead Ore	—	26189	0 3	0	per yard	3928 17 0
Lime, Lemon and Orange Juice	—	335	0 4	0	do.	67 0 0
British	—	1203	0 5	0	do.	300 15 0
Buckram	—	480	0 4	0	do.	96 0 0
Callico, stained	—	34½	0 6	8	do.	11 10 0
White Callico	—	17985¼	0 1	2	do.	10491 6 5½
Canbrick	—	6853½	0 4	0	do.	1371 2 0
Canvass	—	1287	0 5	0	do.	321 15 0
Coloured	—	1085½	0 6	0	do.	325 13 0
Linen - {	—	20	0 3	0	do.	3 0 0
	—	30	0 3	4	do.	5 0 0
	—	39145	0 2	0	do.	3914 10 0
	—	1002½	0 3	0	do.	150 7 6
Damask - { Napkins	—	37192	0 3	6	do.	6608 12 0
{ Tabling	—	680¼	3 0	0	per lhd.	2040 12 10½
	—	118921 3 10				118921 3 10
Diaper { Napkins	—					
{ Tabling	—					
	—					
Kenting	—					
Lawns	—					
Muslin	—					
Li seed	—					
Linen, Cotton, and Silk, Brit. Manuf.	—					

Denominations.		Quantities.	Medium of the current Market Price.		Total.
			£.	s. d.	£.
Mats	—		at 0	1 4 each	215 10 8
Meal - { Flour	—	3233	0	12 0 per cwt.	175 1 16 0
Meal - { Wheat	—	2903	1	6 8 per barrel	69 6 8
Millinery Ware	—	52			69 6 8
Mill Stones	—	693 11 6½			69 6 8
Oakum	—	60	1	5 0 each	75 0 0
Oranges and Lemons	—	1024 3 14	0	12 6 per cwt.	640 10 11½
Oil - { Linseed	—	421 1 14	0	2 6 do.	52 13 5¼
Oil - { Sevil	—	153½	0	2 0 per gallon	15 7 0
Oil - { Sweet	—	4563	0	3 4 do.	760 10 0
Oil - { Train	—	1324 16	0	5 0 do.	331 0 6
Printing Stuffs	—	16147½	0	6 do.	403 13 9
Printing Stuffs	—	2449 13 8			2449 13 8
Reams	—	64½	0	4 0 per ream	12 18 0
Bundles	—	309½	0	3 0 per bundle	46 7 0
Reams	—	947	0	4 4 per ream	205 3 8
Reams	—	35½	0	6 8 do.	11 16 8
Reams	—	1694	0	2 4 do.	197 12 8
Leaves	—	65669	0	8 0 per hund. lea.	262 67 12 0
Reams	—	2823	0	6 8 per ream	941 0 0
Reams	—	11750	0	8 0 per hundred	4700 0 0
Pasteboard	—	78 0 14	4	5 0 per cwt.	332 0 7½
Pewter	—	694 13 6			694 13 6
McGures	—	1113	0	10 0 per barrel	556 10 0
Pitch	—	1171 76	2	2 0 do.	2459 16 8
Plates of Tin	—	14836 3 7	1	5 0 per cwt.	18547 15 3¼
Pot Ashes	—	35	2	0 0 each	70 0 0
Quilts	—	1853 12	2	0 0 per lb.	3707 10 0
Ribband Silk	—				

Denominations.		Quantities.	Medium of the current Market Price.		Total.
			£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
Rezin	—	166 2 14	at 0 10 0	per cwt.	83 6 3
Sadler's Ware	—	314 12 2	0 1	6 per bushel	314 12 2
Foreign	—	1358	0 10	6 per ton	101 17 0
Salt { Rock	—	17488 $\frac{7}{8}$	0 1	4 per bushel	9181 7 7
White	—	629160 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 10	0 per cwt.	41944 0 8
Saltpetre	—	3330 2 14	0 18	0 do.	8326 11 3
Seeds { Clover	—	3264 3 21	0 2	4 per lb.	2938 8 10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Garden	—	28605	3 0	0 do.	3337 5 0
Manufactured	—	16738 2	1 0	0 do.	50214 7 6
Raw	—	32656 0	1 15	0 do.	32656 0 0
Silk { Dyed	—	283 14	1 5	0 do.	504 2 2 $\frac{1}{4}$
Thrown	—	50581 4	0 6	8 per thousand	63232 15 0
Undyed	—	2935 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 2	6 each	745 3 4
Slates	—	4477	0 10	0 each	559 12 6
Buck	—	89	2 2	0 per cwt.	44 10 0
Lofh	—	194 1 25	0 6	8 each	407 19 10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Skins { Sheep	—	39	0 2	6 per lb.	13 0 0
Turkey	—	479	1 5	0 per cwt.	59 17 6
Snuff	—	50 21	0 16	8 do.	6 9 8 $\frac{1}{4}$
Sope	—	1200	0 2	0 per gallon	10 0 0
Sope Afhes	—	1419 $\frac{7}{8}$	0 1	6 do.	141 19 5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Brandy	—	100336 $\frac{7}{8}$	1 5	0 per cwt.	7540 1 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Spirits { Geneva	—	357 1 5	0 2	8 per pair	357 1 5
Rum	—	406 1 21	0 15	0 do.	507 16 11 $\frac{1}{4}$
Stationary Ware	—	23396	0 15	0 do.	3119 9 4
Steel	—	1036			777 0 0
Stockings { Cotton	—				
Silk	—				

Denominations.		Quantities.	Medium of the current Market Price.		Total.
			£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
Stockings	Silk and Cotton	192	at 0 7 6 per pair	72 0 0	
	Silk and Worsted	580	0 7 0 do.	203 0 0	
	Thread	38377	0 2 6 do.	4797 2 6	
	Woollen	1207	0 3 0 do.	181 1 0	
	Worsted	8878	0 5 0 do.	2219 10 0	
Sword Blades		1181	0 2 0 each	118 2 0	
Sword-cutlers' Ware		466 19 4		466 19 4	
Cyder		281 1 26 $\frac{1}{4}$	5 0 0 per ton	1406 16 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Tar		983 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 12 0 per barrel	590 2 0	
Tea	Bohea	1478080	0 2 0 per lb.	147808 0 0	
	Green	570838	0 6 0 do.	171251 8 0	
Tobacco		1262641	0 0 6 do.	31566 0 6	
Tow		320 0 0	1 5 0 per cwt.	400 0 0	
Toys		7973 7 11		7973 7 11	
Twine		21 2 14		64 17 6	
Tiles		54678	3 0 0 do.	82017 0 0	
Tin		258 1 21	1 10 0 per thousand	906 1 3	
Velvet		8 0 0	3 10 0 per cwt.	24 0 0	
Vinegar		10 3 15 $\frac{3}{4}$	3 0 0 per lb.	83 11 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Upholstery Ware		6314 10 3	7 15 0 per ton	6314 10 3	
Walnuts and others		382 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 10 6 per barrel	200 16 3	
Wax, Bee's		6974 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 1 0 per lb.	348 14 6	
Whalebone		5 0 21	13 0 0 per cwt.	67 8 9	
Wine	French	129 1 0	25 0 0 per ton	3231 5 0	
	Port	12 2 31 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 0 0 do.	303 0 0	
	Rhenish	0 0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 0 0 do.	1 0 0	
	Spanish	1 1 21	30 0 0 do.	40 0 0	

Denominations.	Quantities.	Medium of the current Market Price.	Total.
Wood			
Barrel Staves	—	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Canes	—	0 5 0	219 18 6
Casks, empty	—	5 0 0	131 5 0
Clapboards	—	0 2 6	278 17 6
Hoops	—	6 5 0	3 2 6
Oars	—	2 0 0	61 1 10
Planks	—	4 5 0	0 5 3
Timber	—	2 15 0	1063 7 1
Wooden Ware	—	2 15 0	1482 10 0
Brafs	—	6 0 0	1551 4 6
Wire			
Iron	—	2 5 0	5 12 6
Latten	—	4 0 0	63 7 11½
Steel	—	7 5 0	5269 15 0
Beaver	—	0 18 0	15 2 10½
Wool			
Cotton	—	4 0 0	1779 6 0
Efridge	—	4 10 0	10446 10 0
Spanifa	—	4 10 0	32 12 6
Cotton	—	0 1 6	1152 11 3
Yarn			
Linen	—	0 2 0	345 0 9
Mohair	—	0 3 0	189 8 0
Worsted	—	0 4 0	3855 19 6
Small Parcels	—	—	140 15 6
	13066 13 6		13066 13 6
			2148785 4 7

TRADE WITH SCOTLAND.

The tables VIII. and IX. give the detail of the whole trade between Ireland and Scotland, for the year ending 25th March, 1783, distinguishing each article, its quantity and value.

On an average of ten years, ending 5th January, 1778, the imports into Ireland from Scotland were, in value,

	£.
	307,115
Imports into Scotland from Ireland	148,235
	<hr/>
Balance in favour of Scotland -	158,880

But the imports from Scotland, for the year ending 25th March, 1783, were,

	£.
	171,670
Exports to Scotland, - -	123,897
	<hr/>
Balance in favour of Scotland,	47,773

This

This alteration arises from the loss Scotland has suffered in the tobacco trade. She used to send to Ireland, yearly, 3500 hogsheds, before the war, and about 1000 during the war. In the year ending 25th March, 1783, Ireland imported from Scotland 1,152,496 lb.; the quantity is now reduced to a few hundred hogsheds.

The quantity of sugars which Ireland has taken in 1784, from Scotland, is much the same as formerly, and other West-India articles nearly so.

The balance is likely to be much against Scotland for the year 1784, in consequence of the great number of live cattle sent thither this year from Ireland, and also a very large quantity of corn; the great demand for cattle is probably only temporary, and arose from the very severe winter with which Scotland has been afflicted, and through which many cattle were starved. Of late years the import of corn from Ireland had greatly decreased. Corn had been imported from the East Countries, or north of Europe, and had, since the making the canals, been conveyed by them across the narrow part of the island to the west of Scotland.

Notwith-

Notwithstanding Scotland is so great a linen country, it appears that the value of the linens she takes from Ireland is above half of all her imports from that country. On the other hand, Ireland takes not much less of other sorts of linens from Scotland, kenting alone amounting to 40,235*l.* and lawns 11,175*l.* in the year 1783. This should remove jealousy: it shews that different fabrics of the same manufacture may flourish in neighbouring countries to the advantage of both. The annexed tables of imports and exports will suggest many observations to the intelligent. Between 50 and 60 years ago, the annual exports from Ireland to Scotland were about 11,900*l.* above half of which was oatmeal. The imports from Scotland were 31,700 *l.*, of which coals were above one third, tobacco 7,800 *l.*, linen and kenting 3,500*l.*

No. VIII.

Exports from Ireland to Scotland for the Year ended the 25th of March, 1783.

Denominations.	Quantities.	Medium of the current Market Price.		Total Value.
		£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
Hams	327 2 14	at 1 10 0	per cwt.	£. 491 8 9
Beef	9617½	1 10 0	each	14425 15 0
Ditto	3	4 0 0	each	12 0 0
Books	18 2 0	2 10 0	per cwt.	46 5 0
Bread	37 0 0	0 12 0	per cwt.	22 4 0
Bullocks and Cows	233	5 0 0	each	1165 0 0
Barrels, empty	41	0 5 0	each	10 5 0
Butter	5157 3 14	2 0 0	per cwt.	10315 15 0
Candles	1 1 0	1 16 8	per cwt.	2 5 10
Cheefe	5 0 0	1 0 0	per cwt.	5 0 0
Barley	630	1 12 0	per quarter	1008 0 0
Malt	30	1 3 0	per quarter	34 10 0
Oats	5747	0 9 9	per quarter	2801 13 0
Feathers	5 3 14	2 0 0	per cwt.	11 15 0
Herrings	142	0 15 0	per barrel	106 10 0
Glue	20 0 0	1 13 4	per cwt.	33 6 8
Glas Ware	11 0 0			11 0 0

Denominations.		Quantities.	Medium of the current Market Price.		Total Value.
	C. q. lb. No.		£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
Hogs' Lard	—	62 0 14	1 10 0	0 per cwt.	93 3 9
Horfes	—	376	6 0 0	0 each	2256 0 0
Horns, Ox and Cows	—	211 0 0	0 16 8	8 per hundred	175 16 8
Hides, tanned	—	47	1 13 4	8 each	78 6 8
Ditto, untanned	—	4585	1 6 8	8 each	6113 6 4
Linen Cloth	—	990261½	0 1 4	4 per yard	66017 8 0
Meal, { Flour	—	720 0 0	0 15 0	0 per cwt.	540 0 0
{ Oats	—	4768	0 10 6	6 per barrel	2503 4 0
Ox Guts	—	4	0 16 8	8 per barrel	4 6 8
Pork	—	3553½	1 10 0	0 per barrel	1777 17 0
Salt	—	60	0 1 3	3 per buffel	3 15 0
Skins, Calves	—	3992 6	1 2 6	6 per dozen	499 11 3
Sepe	—	79 0 0	1 13 4	4 per cwt.	131 13 4
Starch	—	4 0 0	1 6 8	8 per cwt.	5 6 8
Tallow	—	626 2 21	2 0 0	0 per cwt.	1253 7 6
Tongues	—	348¼	0 12 0	0 per dozen	208 19 0
Yarn, Linen	—	1798 3 10	6 0 0	0 per cwt.	10793 0 9
Yarn, Worſted	—	259 0	1 10 0	0 per ſtone	129 10 0
Small Parcels	—	810 6 3			810 6 3
					£. 123897 12 1

No. IX.

Imports from Scotland into Ireland for the Year ended the 25th of March, 1783.

Denominations.		Quantities.	Medium of the current Market Price.		Total Value.
			£. s. d.		£. s. d.
Ale	—	127 $\frac{1}{2}$	at 1 0 0	per barrel	127 6 8
Apparel	—	206 5 1			206 5 1
Bark	—	1003	0 7 0	per barrel	351 1 0
Beer	—	190 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 0 0	per barrel	190 5 0
Books { Bound	—	65 0 0			65 0 0
Books { Unbound	—	61 1 0			612 5 0
Bullion, Silver	—	1	10 0 0	per cwt.	0 6 8
Bottles of Glafs	—	3483 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 6 8	per doz.	261 4 6
Bricks	—	1 $\frac{8}{10}$	0 1 6	per doz.	2 12 0
Coaches, Chaifes	—	509 0 0	1 10 0	per thousand	509 0 0
Coals	—	21047 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 15 0	per ton	15785 5 0
Barley and Malt	—	3	1 2 0	per quarter	3 6 0
Beans and Peafe	—	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 5 0	ditto	1 17 6
Wheat	—	240	2 3 4	ditto	520 0 0
Drapery { New	—	1133 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 2 6	per yard	1416 7 6
Drapery { Old	—	169	0 14 0	ditto	118 6 0

Denominations.		Quantities.	Medium of the current Market Price.		Total Value.	
			£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.
Drugs	—	0 2 6			0	2 6
Dyeing Stuffs	{ Copperas	1617 2 7	at 0	6	539	3 9
	{ Fustick	70 0 0	0	14	49	0 0
	Smalts	68	0	13	40	16 8
	Small Parcels	1616 4 0			1616	4 0
Earthen Ware	—	60 1 9			60	1 9
Fish	{ Cod	1 2 5	4	0	6	4 0
	{ Herrings	154½	1	0	154	10 0
	{ Ling	281 1 5	4	10	1265	17 0
	Salmon	10 1	12	0	122	0 0
Flax, undrest	—	157 1 14	1	15	275	3 1½
Tuftens	—	¾	0	15	0	11 3
Glaſs Cafes	—	21	1	10	31	10 0
Glaſs Ware	—	1 19 6			1	19 6
Gloves	—	36	0	3	5	8 0
Hulled Barley	—	66 2 0	1	2	73	3 0
Loaf Sugar	—	518 3 14	6	0	3113	5 0
Sugar, Muſcovado	—	10115 3 14	2	5	22758	15 0
Small Parcels	—	0 15 0			0	15 0

Denominations.		Quantities.	Medium of the current Market Price.		Total Value.	
			£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.
Haberdashery	Outnal	10082 $\frac{3}{4}$	at 0	5	2771	15 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Thread	1217 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	15	912	13 3
	Sifters	450 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	2	60	1 4
	White Brown	124 0 11	0	15	124	11 0
Hats	Small Parcels	18	0	15	13	10 0
Horics	—	192	10	0	1920	0 0
Hard Ware	—	12 3 4	0	16	12	3 4
Ironmongers' Ware	Iron	3144 1 0	0	16	2515	8 0
	Knives	264	0	3	3	6 0
	Mernits	1208	0	2	120	16 0
	Small Parcels	269 17 11	0	12	269	17 11
Ivory, Wrought	—	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	12	4	19 0
Lead, White	—	5	1	6	6	13 4
Linen	British	5902 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	3	938	8 2
	Cambricks	407 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	6	135	16 8
	Canvafs	7638	0	1	440	11 0
	Coloured	4925	0	4	985	0 0
Linen	Kenting	402356 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	2	40235	12 0
	Lawns	74507	0	3	11175	11 0
	Muslin	80	0	3	14	0 0

Denominations.	Quantities.	Medium of the current Market Price.		Total Value.
		£. s. d.	at 3 0 0 per hundred	£. s. d.
Linfeed — — — — —	100½			301 10 0
Linen, Cotton and Silk, British } Manufactures — — — — —	5388 14 6			5388 14 6
Mats — — — — —	16	0 1 4 each		1 1 4
Meal Flour — — — — —	1447 0 14	0 12 0 per cwt.		868 4 0
Millinery Ware — — — — —	1714 4 2			1714 4 2
Oil { Linfeed — — — — —	20	0 2 0 per gallon		2 0 0
{ Sweet — — — — —	52	0 5 0 do.		13 0 0
{ Train — — — — —	4666⅓	0 0 6 do.		116 14 8
Painting Stuffs — — — — —	10 6 8			10 6 8
Paper { Blue — — — — —	3	0 4 0 per ream		0 12 0
{ Printing — — — — —	1010	0 2 4 do.		1017 16 0
Pitch — — — — —	10	0 10 0 per barrel		5 0 0
Plates of Tin — — — — —	1	2 2 0 do.		0 8 4
Pot Ashes — — — — —	18 2 0	1 5 0 per cwt.		23 2 6
Saddlers' Ware — — — — —	75 0 0			75 0 0
Salt { Foreign — — — — —	3713	0 1 6 per bushel		278 9 6
{ Rock — — — — —	28½	0 10 6 per ton		14 19 3
{ White — — — — —	3006	0 1 4 per bushel		200 8 0

Denominations.		Quantities.	Medium of the current Market Price.		Total Value.
			£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Seeds	{ Clover	369 2 21	at 0 18	0 per cwt.	332 4 4½
	{ Garden	798	0 2	4 per lb.	93 2 0
Silk, manufactured		3006 12½	3 0	0 per lb.	9020 6 9
Slates		83	0 6	8 per thousand	27 13 4
Skins	{ Losh	216	0 10	0 each	108 0 0
	{ Sheep	17 3 10	2 2	0 per cwt.	37 9 3
Snuff		7½	0 2	6 per lb.	0 18 9
Sope		442 2 21	1 5	0 per cwt.	553 7 1½
Spirits, Rum		294 14½	0 1	6 per gallon	2206 1 9
Starch		3 3 14	0 16	8 per cwt.	3 4 7
Stationary Ware		0 8 0			0 8 0
Steel		203 3 0	1 5	0 do.	254 13 3
	{ Cotton	348	1 2	8 per pair	46 8 0
	{ Silk	6	0 15	0 do.	4 10 0
Stockings	{ Thread	22233	0 2	6 do.	2779 0 0
	{ Woollen	99	0 3	0 do.	14 17 0
	{ Worsted	66	0 5	0 do.	16 10 0
Cyder		1	5 0	0 per ton	5 0 0
Tar		478	0 12	0 per barrel	286 16 0
Tobacco		1152496	0 0	6 per lb.	28812 8 0

Denominations.		Quantities.	Medium of the current Market Price.		Total Value.
			£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Toys	—	0 18 6	3 10 0	per cwt.	0 18 6
Tin	—	56 3 14	24 0 0	per ton	199 1 3
Upholstery Ware	—	1929 12 7½	20 0 0	per hundred	1929 12 7½
Wine, Port	—	1 1 52½	0 3 5	do.	35 0 0
Wood	Balk	70 3 10	0 5 0	do.	17 14 3
	Barrel Staves	10	5 0 0	per thousand	0 1 0
	Canes	534	0 2 6	each	66 15 0
	Casks, empty	39 2 15	4 5 0	per hundred	162 10 3
	Deals	19	2 0 0	per thousand	0 0 9½
	Hoops	127 5	2 15 0	per ton	349 5 3
Wool, Cotton	Timber	194 1 7	4 0 0	per cwt.	194 1 7
	Wooden Ware	94 0 21	4 0 0	do.	376 15 0
Wire, Latten	—	0 3 0	4 0 0	do.	3 0 0
Yarn	Cotton	1904	0 1 6	per lb.	142 16 0
	Linen	359	0 2 0	do.	35 18 0
	Worsted	112	0 4 0	do.	22 8 0
Small Parcels	—	639 7 1			639 7 1
					£. 171670 14 7½

TRADE WITH BRITISH COLONIES.

It is not easy to speak with precision as to the future trade of Ireland with the British colonies; it is likely to be very considerable, but we must not perhaps judge from the efforts made at the latter end of a war, or from what has been done on the flurry of first opening the trade of the colonies to Ireland, for the short time since the peace. Every warehouse and shop of that country has been emptied of commodities, good, bad, and indifferent, particularly the two last, for exportation; we cannot, however, acknowledge that there was much foresight, (at the time the commercial character of the nation was to be formed, and also the character of its manufactures,) in sending out every thing that was bad. Indeed that part which went to the American States will not be paid for, although the worst woollens and iron ware, &c. which have been sent, will be sold or exchanged with the poor Indians, at a profit of 100 per cent.

T R A D E

TRADE WITH THE BRITISH WEST
INDIES.

It has been already remarked, that the British West Indies have a demand for almost every produce and manufacture of Ireland, and therefore the export to them may become very great, unless, indeed, the Minister's very remarkable system of sacrificing the commercial, as well as the marine principle of the navigation laws, should take place. If that ruinous system should continue to be averted, the dependence of the planters on the British merchants and their connections, will be the means of bringing most of the West-India produce to Great Britain ; but if the trade of the West-Indies is to be opened to the American States, the trade of Ireland with the West Indies must almost entirely cease.

The American States may furnish most of the provisions that Ireland does ; and as to manufactures, an immediate intercourse will be opened for linen through North Ame-

America, with all the linen countries of Europe, and so far as the produce of the West Indies can find a market in those countries, North America will procure it; North America may traffic therewith for a great part of what she would otherwise take from Great Britain or Ireland. In short, if it be injurious to allow a free intercourse between the West Indies and all countries, and in all articles, of which there can be no doubt, the allowing it with any one foreign state is virtually allowing it with all, and Ireland will be under circumstances infinitely worse than she was before the extension of her trade, because great quantities of her provisions and linens then went there, which, in the event now alluded to, would not.

The quantity of sugars imported into Ireland at different periods, were as follow :

	Cwt.	q.	lb.	£.	s.	d.
1753 { Candy -	57	1	21	132,603	1	3
{ Loaf -	1791	1	7			
{ Muscovado	88,817	2	14			
{ White -	4287	3	21			

R r Of

Of the muscovado, 52,010 cwt. and 499 cwt. of white, came in the above year from Spain and Portugal.

	Cwt.	q.	lb.	£.	s.	d.
1763 { Candy	53	3	7	148,921	19	5 $\frac{1}{4}$
{ Loaf	1,018	1	7			
{ Musco.	103,558	0	21			
{ White	3,366	1	7			

Of the muscovado in that year, 2638 cwt. came from Spain and Portugal.

	Cwt.	q.	lb.	£.	s.	d.
1773 { Candy	36	0	7	312,143	0	0 $\frac{1}{4}$
{ Loaf -	10,664	1	0			
{ Musco.	201,109	3	21			
{ White	531	0	21			

	Cwt.	q.	lb.	£.	s.	d.
1783 { Candy	4	0	0	358,750	3	9
{ Loaf -	9,871	2	21			
{ Musco.	133,110	1	0			
{ White	0	0	0			

Of the latter, all the candy was from England; of the loaf, 9352 cwt. 3q. 7lb. from England; 518 cwt. 3q. 14lb. from Scot-

Scotland ; of muscovado from the following places :

	Cwt.	quar.	lbs.
England - - -	89,124	2	14
Scotland - - -	10,115	3	14
Antigua - - -	12,809	3	21
Barbadoes - - -	3,303	1	0
Jamaica - - -	4,577	1	7
Newfoundland - - -	11	3	0
St. Kitt's - - -	3,867	2	7
Tortola - - -	5,280	1	21
West Indies in general -	4,019	2	0

Imports into Ireland from the West Indies,
in the same year ending 25th March, 1783.

	Total quantities.
Chocolate, lbs. - - -	5
Coffee, cwt. q. lb. - - -	214 2 7
Drugs, value - - -	18 6 0
Cocoa nuts, lbs. - - -	70 0 0
Indigo, lbs. - - -	166 0 0
Ginger, cwt. q. lbs. - - -	211 1 7
Pepper, lbs. - - -	13 0 0
Pimento, lbs. - - -	10,611 0 0
Saffron, lbs. - - -	56 $\frac{1}{2}$ 0 0
Succards, lbs. - - -	501 $\frac{1}{2}$ 0 0
Sugar, muscovado, cwt. -	33,858 0 0
R r 2	Small

		Total quantities.		
Small parcels of groceries, val.		3	14	8
Snuff, lbs.	- -	9	0	0
Rum, gallons	- -	297,038	0	0
Brandy, gallons	-	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0
Tobacco, lbs.	-	301,598	0	0
Bees wax, lbs.	-	280	0	0
Barrel staves, cwt. q. No	-	60	0	0
Planks, value	-	33	15	6
Wooden ware, value	-	84	10	0
Timber, tons, feet	-	7	0	0
Cotton wool, cwt. q. lb.		1,092	1	7

BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES.

The export trade of Ireland to the remaining colonies of Great Britain, in North America, will probably be considerable. In the year ending 25th March, 1783, she exported,

	To Newfoundland.	To Nova Scotia.	To Quebec.
Beer - - - - Barrels.	205	20	8
Beef or Biscuit Barrels.	1668 $\frac{2}{3}$	309 $\frac{1}{2}$	656 $\frac{2}{3}$
Bread - - - C. qr. lbs.	63683 14	21	240
Butter - - C. qr. lbs.	2442 2	251 3	1805 1 14
Candles - - C. qr. lbs.	228 14	343 3 14	1217 3 0
Oats - - Qrs. bushels.	107 4	0	0
New drapery - - Yards.	1120	11123	2800
Old drapery - - Yards.	94	984	0
Flannel - - - Yards.	0	1744	0
Gloves - - - - Pairs.	48	1014	0
Haberdashery - Value.	10 7 1	614 16 6	0
Hats - - - - - No.	273	516	0
Drinking glassess. - No.	0	2400	0
Tanned hides C. qr. lb.	24 24	N ^o 87	0
Wrought iron C. qr. lb.	2	5	0
Linen cloth - - Yards.	3958	123,534	10,383
Ditto, coloured Yards.	78 $\frac{1}{2}$	6547	193
Flour - - - C. qr. lbs.	1721 2 14	0	6
Oatmeal - - C. qr. lbs.	1921 0 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	312
Pork - - - - Barrels.	6889 $\frac{1}{2}$	518	1466 $\frac{1}{2}$
Shoes - - - - - lbs.	991	690	784
Silk manufac. - lbs. oz.	0	136	
Soap - - - C. qr. lbs.	161 2 14	107 2	266
Woollen } stockings } Doz. No.	79	42	0
Worsted Do. Doz. No.	96 2	20 6	180
Sugar, Loaf, C. q. lbs.	46 2 17	0	0

Besides apparel and other articles of no great amount.

Her

Her importations the same year from those colonies were of small value, and consisted of few articles.

	Newfoundland.	Nova Scotia.	Quebec.
	Cwt.	Qrs.	
Cod -	529	2	— —
Salmon -	32 tons	—	—
Train oil -	43,743 gals.	—	—
	Cwt.	Cwt.	Qr. No.
Barrel staves ———	120	430	1 25
		£.	s. d.
Total Irish produce exported to the British Plantations, on an average of 9 years ending 25th March, 1782,		281,125	10 9
Ditto exported to ditto in the year ending 25th March, 1783,	- -	381,617	1 7.
Total imports from the British Plantations on an average of 9 years, ending 25th March, 1782,	- -	103,205	2 4
Ditto from ditto in the year ending 25th March, 1783,	- - -	118,145	8 3

TRADE WITH THE AMERICAN STATES.

Ireland as well as Great Britain having exported goods and manufactures to the American states in the years 1783 and 1784 beyond any possibility of present, or probable disposition of future payment, it is much to be feared that the capitals of her merchants, and consequently her general trade, will

will greatly suffer. Ireland with a characteristic eagerness, transmitted to the new states every exportable article that her warehouses and shops could furnish; and it is much wished, at least by the writer of these observations, that she could stand the shock of her impending disappointments, as well as Great Britain. It is also wished, that she may be more circumspect in future, and be convinced that a gradual and steady trade, will in the end be more permanent, and beneficial than sudden efforts, which bear neither the advantage of fore-knowledge nor the guidance of discretion.

In return for manufactures, Ireland might be advantageously paid in tobacco, indigo, rice, flax seed, pot ash, and naval stores. But she will find rivals for tobacco, and some of the other articles, that will surpass her. North America has not commodities at present to satisfy all her customers.

The greater part of the above articles she has taken from Great Britain, even since her ports were open for them from other countries; and above two thirds of her importation of tobacco was from thence in the
year

year ending 25th March, 1783. Indeed the war has not been ended long enough to ascertain what alterations peace will make. The writer of these observations has not yet seen the custom-house accounts of Ireland to a later period than 25th March, 1783.* To give an account of the Irish imports and exports to and from the American states previous to that time, will decide little as to what is likely to be the trade after peace has been sometime established. However it is probable the greater part of American tobacco will come to Great Britain, and that she will continue to be the mart for that article as well as for several of the others; for if a minister should unadvisedly or rashly attempt to sacrifice that part of the navigation laws on which the commercial respectability and naval strength of this island depend; the people must and would undoubtedly interfere, and the destructive measure must be revoked. But what will that minister deserve of the two kingdoms, who offers and promises to the one, what cannot be conceded by the

* He has seen a part of the Custom-House accounts for the year ending 25th March, 1784, since their sheets were at the press.

other,

other, and induces between the two, the alternative either of a most severe disappointment or of certain ruin?

Ireland is not likely to import tobacco, rice or indigo to any considerable amount; it is not her interest in particular, that this trade should change its course: it is enough to say, that if a revolution should take place in that trade, and those articles should cease to go through the medium of Great Britain to the linen countries in the north of Europe, the linen manufacture of Ireland may suffer. Those countries used to take above half the tobacco exported from Great Britain.

In the year 1773, the quantity of tobacco	
she exported to the countries north of France,	
amounted to	54,925,491 lbs. at 4d.
To France -	31,750,123
To Ireland -	6,189,773
To other countries	3,911,956
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Total export -	96,776,443

Of rice, above 6 parts in 7 of the export, from Great Britain went to the linen countries; of indigo, above half.

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The average import of tobacco into Ireland from all parts, for ten years, ending 25th March, 1783, was 4,378,551 lbs.

In the year ending 25th March 1783, Ireland imported of tobacco,

		lbs.
From England	- -	1,262,641
Scotland	- -	1,152,496
Jersey	- - -	56,186
Denmark and Norway	-	58,190
Flanders and Holland	-	80,303
Sweden	- - -	60,950
West Indies	- - -	301,598
America (New York)	-	487,489
Total	- -	3,459,861

and she exported the same year only 844lbs. which were shipped to Holland and Flanders.

The consumption probably did not fall off so much as appears in the statement; smuggling may have supplied much of the deficiency.

In the same year 150 cwt. 0 qrs. 21 lbs. of rice were imported; of which 140 cwt. 1 qr. 7 lbs. came from Portugal, the small remainder

remainder from England. This is below the usual quantity imported by Ireland; but her importations of this article have been very irregular.

Indigo imported into Ireland the same year,

			lbs.
From England	-	-	48,998
Flanders	-	-	1,316
France	-	-	2,806 $\frac{1}{2}$
Portugal	-	-	1,365
Carolina	-	-	120
Jamaica	-	-	166
New England	-	-	500
New York	-	-	4,908
Tortola	-	-	600
			<hr/>
			60,779 $\frac{1}{2}$

The Irish demand for American flax seed has diminished, and is likely to diminish; she has lately been principally supplied with that article from Flanders, and the seed from thence or Holland was greedily bought up this year (1784) in Ireland, for sowing, at 4l. 15s. and 5l. the hogsheaf of 7 bushels, while the American sold for 50s. or less. The Parliament of Ireland and the Linen

Board have turned their attention strongly to promote the supply of Irish seed within these four years, and the seed preserved there, bears an equal price with the American. It is purposed to distribute this year in premiums on the growth of flax to the amount of 16,000l.; so that it is probable in a few years little seed will be imported into Ireland except to refresh the species; and it is possible she may supply considerably to Great Britain for oil.

The consumption in Ireland, of American pot ash, even before the war, was trifling; she was principally supplied from the East Country and Spain. The American States are likely to produce less than they did.

As to naval stores, it is not surprising that the demand should be small, in a country so unaccountably inattentive to the whole business of ship building.

For such an island, her quantity of shipping is comparatively insignificant; and even at present she does not seem to understand the difference between building ships at home or in America.

Her

Her demand for naval stores cannot be great, and it will not be entirely from America. This year four ships went from Archangel, three to Dublin and one to Belfast, and imported 4823 barrels of tar, 2468 barrels of pitch, 484 pood of turpentine, 500 pood of hemp, 2630 pood* of iron.

As to the exports from Ireland to the American States, they will be in manufactures; they will become considerable hereafter, and at present they will be much more than the States can pay for, in money, bills, or commodities.

TRADE WITH PORTUGAL.

The butter alone which Ireland sent to Portugal in the year ending 25th March, 1783, paid for all imports from that country.

	£.	s.	d.
Total exports from Ireland			
to Portugal -	174,493	18	10
Of which 46,055 cwt. of			
butter, at 40s. per cwt.			
amounted to 92,111l.			

* The Russia pood is nearly equal to 36 lbs. avoirdupois weight.

Total

	£.	s.	d.
Total imports from Portugal into Ireland the same year - -	92,000	8	7 $\frac{3}{4}$
Balance in favour of Ireland - -	82,493	10	2 $\frac{1}{4}$

Next to butter, her greatest export to that country consists of woollens, viz. in 1783:

New drapery, 366,743 yards, value 36,674*l*.
 Old drapery, 2,660 yards, value 866*l*.
 Flannel, 1,302 yards, at 10*d*. 54*l*. 5*s*.

Next to woollens are beef and pork.

13,079 $\frac{5}{8}$ barrels of beef,
 5,530 $\frac{1}{2}$ ditto of pork,
 2,086 $\frac{1}{4}$ cwt. of tallow and hog's lard,
 129 dozens of tongues,
 151 fitches of bacon,
 1,612 cwt. of cheese,
 1,463 lbs. of shoes,

Of fish she sent only

Cod, barrels, 20
 Cod, cwt. 5
 Hake, cwt. 475 $\frac{1}{2}$
 Herrings, barrels, 290 $\frac{1}{2}$

Ling.

Ling, cwt.	10½
Salmon, tons,	6
Of beer, barrels,	106½

But she sent only of linens,

43,125 yds. of plain, at 16d. per yd. 2,875l.
 19,892 ditto of coloured, at 19d. per yard,
 1,616l. 4s. 6d.

In 1781 Portugal prohibited the importation of printed linens from Ireland, and even ordered such parcels as were then in the custom house to be sent out of the kingdom.

The Portuguese make a good deal of common linen for their own consumption, and a coarse kind of table linen, and their demand for fine linen from other countries is not considerable. The French white linens imported into Portugal in 1776 and 1777, amounted only to 20,000 pieces, and the Cambrayas were not so much. But the great importation is of narrow Britanias, from Hamburgh, amounting in 1777, to near 200,000 pieces. These are consumed in the Portuguese colonies; and the manufacture of Britain and Ireland has not

not yet rivalled them in cheapness. Irish linens pay as 120, while French pay only as 100, &c. the Irish being imported as olando contrafata*.

Her principal imports from Portugal are wine and salt. Imported from Portugal, year ending 25th March, 1783.

	£.	s.	d.
Wine, 1949 tons, 3 hogheads,			
42 gallons - -	46,907	17	6
Salt, 326,170 bushels -	21,744	13	4
Oranges and lemons, } 34,507 hund. }	- 4,313	9	8
Raisins, 791 cwt. - -	890	0	0
○ { Seville, 19,252½ gallons	3,208	15	0
○ { Sweet, 468 ditto -	117	0	0
Pot ashes, 4132 cwt. -	5,165	0	0
Spirits, brandy, 7684 gallons	768	9	0
Cotton wool, 106 cwt. 1q.	425	10	0

* Vessels going on the southern whale fishery might dispose of a large quantity of coarse linens on the coast of South America. It is said the Brazils pay 100 per cent. duty on every thing from Portugal.

Cork,

		£.	s.	d.
Cork, 1249 cwt. 1q.	—	4,372	7	6
Indigo, 1365 lbs.	—	455	0	0
Shumack, 1069 cwt.	—	712	13	4
Figs, 258½ cwt.	—	161	10	6
Almonds, 44 cwt.	—	121	10	0

It is probable that both the import and export trade to Portugal will increase, and that in the great articles of beef, butter, and pork, Ireland will not be rivalled. Cheese is an increasing article, because it is of a better quality than formerly; but a large quantity of cheese for exportation cannot be expected from a country that makes much butter. It is said the import of that article from Holland into Portugal is not less than 50,000*l.* sterling annually. Herrings, hake, and other fish, are articles of probable increase of export to that country. The camblet trade, which was always admitted, and previous to the Methuen treaty, declines. Coating has turned out camblet, and the manufacturers should take to coating. It is said Ireland affords shags and some sort of bays cheaper than England; that in all cloths of wool under 5*s.* and above 10*s.* the English excel the world at

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the Portugal market; but that between 5s. and 10s. Ireland might have an advantage; yet the ground on which the latter is founded does not appear. These cloths are 50 inches, or yard and half wide.

The customs in Portugal consist of

A rogoe duty, which is 20 per cent. on the value.

Donative - - 4

Cancelado - - 3

27 per cent.

And there is a clause in the last ordinance of rates which directs the officer to attend to the current prices, and if they vary from the rates, to increase the duty accordingly. Fees and port charges amount to about three per cent. more, making, in the whole, 30 per cent.

The efforts of the Portuguese to discourage the import of woollens from Great Britain and Ireland *, are not justifiable;

* A New Book of Rates was formed in Portugal, February 1783, by which British and Irish goods are rated much higher than formerly.

the produce of wool in Portugal is by no means equal to the consumption. The export is prohibited, yet near 400,000lb. are sent to Holland, under the name of Spanish wool re-exported. The average produce of their sheep is 2½lb. per fleece, and the whole produce is estimated at 1,700,000lb. Several manufactures have been set up in different parts of the country, and to encourage them, every difficulty is opposed to the entry of foreign manufactures; this only encourages smuggling, and consequently an evasion of duties. Contraband trade flourishes very extensively, and it requires the vigour and resolution of a Pombal to prevent it in that country. Most of the manufactures are carried on at the expence of the crown, of course they can rarely succeed. The finest English cloth sells there at 27s. per yard. The only import of essential consequence into Ireland from Portugal, is salt; all her other imports from thence she might have as well from Spain and France.

The conduct of the courts of London and Lisbon, on the subject of refusing to admit Irish woollens into Portugal as British, is

T t 2 unworthy

unworthy of them, and avails little. It is said, that Portugal at the time of making the Methuen treaty, objected to Irish woollens being deemed British: but it is advantageous to Portugal to admit Irish as long as she admits British; competition would lower the price to her. It has been understood, that the difficulty is on the part of Britain. It is vain, however, because it appears, that above three fifths of the exports of new drapery from Ireland, are to Portugal: of old drapery, 2660 yards; to the Madeiras, of the latter, 5174 yards.

It therefore not only is unnecessary, but it would perhaps prove a rash measure, to lay prohibitory duties on Portugal wine.

TRADE. WITH SPAIN.

It was intended to give the detail of the trade of Ireland with each country, but it would swell the work too much, and in many instances it would be only matter of curiosity, for the reason already given; that we cannot form a just idea of what may be, from what has been, the trade of Ireland.

This

This observation, however, does not apply to Spain so much as to some other countries; but as war with that kingdom had only ceased a small part of the year ending 25th March 1783, the trade with it consequently could not be very considerable. The exports to Spain that year were in value only 2210*l*. and 886 cwt. of hake amounted to 1329*l*. of that sum. The quantity of linen sent there was only 2500 yds., butter 93 cwt. and pork 200 barrels. But the imports from Spain were much more considerable, amounting to 83,412*l*. The pot ashes imported were in value nearly that sum, viz. 64,973 cwt. 77,967*l*. The only other articles of any amount imported were 1046 cwt. of raisins, and 70 tons of wine, 24 tons of which were Portugal wines.

Previous to 1783, the Irish custom-house accounts do not separate the trade with Spain from that to Portugal; they appear under one head.

Whatever the trade with Spain may have been, it might become very considerable and advantageous to both countries.—She cannot

not raise to advantage many of the staple articles of Ireland; she might take nearly the same articles that Portugal takes, but in much greater abundance. It is computed that Spain sends to her colonies, linens to the amount of 1,300,000*l.*: that she consumes to the amount of 1,000,000*l.* sterling: and the Canaries, Portugal, the Brazils, Madeira, Western Islands, and coast of Africa, take to the value of 500,000*l.* exclusive of freight, insurance, commission, and profit; and all this taken from France, Flanders, and Germany. The calculation was made 25 years ago, and was probably much under-rated at the time.

But in 1773, the year of the greatest tranquillity for trade, and seemingly as advantageous to be selected as any, the quantity of linens that went to Spain and Portugal from both Great Britain and Ireland was as follows:

	Yards.
British linens from London and out ports, - - -	4,900
Irish linens from London and out ports, - - - -	29,371

These were from 6*d.* to 18*d.* per yard, and entitled to bounty.

The

TRADE WITH FRANCE. 335

Yards.

The quantity exported the same
year to Spain and Portugal from
Ireland, was - - 30,511
The preceding year, viz. 1772 - 16,066

But in the year ending 25th March, 1780,
the quantity of linen exported to those coun-
tries from Ireland, was increased to 157,396
yards, plain and coloured.

TRADE WITH FRANCE.

The principal import from France is wine,
and the principal export to that country
from Ireland is beef; but the year immedi-
ately succeeding the peace is not the best for
noticing the exports or imports, or for judg-
ing of the trade to that country.

Within ten years, and previous to the
war, the exports to France had in several
instances declined. These were the princi-
pal exports :

	1765	1766	1775	1776
Beef, Barrels -	86047	67023	70968	69377
Biscuit, Cwt. -	243	183	131	128
				Butter,

336 TRADE WITH FRANCE.

	1765	1766	1775	1776
Butter, Cwt. -	26413	19765	25570	16940
Candles, Cwt. -	2341	1398	285	476
Hides untanned, No.	12166	10211	4182	3660
Pork, Barrels -	1142	1087	2544	1235
Tallow, Cwt. -	2277	582	3394	3197

And the following are the principal imports into Ireland from France, the others are of no great value.

Imports	1765	1766	1775	1776
Capers, lbs. - -	10896	4605	3358	2584
Cork, Cwt. - -	1260	1501	1348	1408
Gloves, Pairs -	5747	5030	12726	4176
Cambrick, Yards	64852	45922	---	---
Printing Paper } Reams }	25694	16557	8684	10987
Writing Paper } Reams }	1199	1777	128	40
Salt, Bushels -	9156	3529	1930	3886
Brandy, Gallon	739864	637028	335449	386194
Wine, Tons -	4941	4502	2999	2689
Oil, Gallons -	795	3716	1239	293

The imports from France declined still more than the exports to that country; in general we may suppose one affected the other.

THE

THE TRADE WITH HOLLAND AND FLANDERS

Is not separated in the Irish custom-house accounts. The principal exports to those countries had decreased previous to the war: and had been irregular.

	1765	1766	1775	1776
Beef, Barrels -	10362	7100	6257	8830
Biscuit, cwt. -	207	117	32	83
Butter, cwt. -	52251	28955	10375	15330
Candles, cwt. -	765	526	668	578
Hides, No. -	12040	14142	2062	1381
Hogs' Lard, cwt.	1681	360	287	665
Linen, yards -	6432	1506	4776	3180
Pork, barrels -	1121	1431	213	726
Tallow, cwt. -	10513	1333	2032	816

The imports into Ireland from Holland and Flanders are very numerous, including a considerable quantity of groceries, drugs, and dying stuffs, and the following principal articles.

	1765	1766	1775	1776
Barley and Malt, } quarters, }	280	20	0	2
Wheat, ditto, -	120	1768	115	4
	U u		Undressed	

	1765	1766	1775	1776
Undressed Flax, cwt.	3691	1939	182	617
Thread Outnal, lb.	6270	5523	2873	8552
Thread, Sifters, lb.	2137	1948	2573	1581
Iron, cwt. -	5824	1776	2691	1355
Cambrick, yards,	1033	45	0	0
Hamb. Linen, ells,	1605	7	19	6
Linseed, hogsh.	6587	1777	1043	5256
Ditto Oil, gallons,	31324	16950	42947	42822
Printing Paper, } Reams, }	5962	2253	1351	1371
Writing do. do.	7783	5806	5087	4803
Garden seeds, lbs.	6833	7452	10375	8047
Snuff, lbs.	5435	9388	4005	2397
Geneva, galls.	152816	83908	119804	153430
Iron wire, cwt.	1520	913	1240	1073
Steel, cwt.	1189	1118	1295	1123
Starch, cwt.	87	91	271	442

No judgment can be formed from the exports or imports, to and from these countries, during war. In the year ending 25th March, 1783, we find the exports to them increased; Beef, barrels, 21,876; Butter, 17,911 cwt.; New Drapery, 28,633 yards; Old Drapery, 2,940 yards; Flannel, 3248 yards; Frize, 700 yards; Hides, 2,972, No.; Linen cloth, 44,953 yards; Ditto, coloured, 8,489 yards; Pork, 4,495 barrels; Woollen yarn, 440 stones.

As to the imports the same year, many had decreased, a few had increased.

THE

THE TRADE WITH THE EAST COUNTRY.

This includes Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Russia, the Baltic, and the country north of Holland, and the trade to these countries is not separated in the Irish custom-house accounts till 1783.

Exports from Ireland to the East Country.

	1765	1766	1775	1776
Beef, Barrels —	1700	1419	136	8830
Biscuit, Cwt. —	248	219	69	83
Beer, Barrels —	495	394	58	2
Butter, Cwt. —	98535	64638	10877	15330
Cheese, Cwt. —	626	277	11	17
Malt, Qrs. —	406	785	150	0
Hides, No. —	2699	4598	612	0
Linen, Yards —	16617	16127	8542	9013
Oatmeal, Barrels	3995	788	10	313
Pork, Ditto —	324	115	25	32
Salt, Bushels —	2004	2332	0	0
Calves Skins, Doz.	1684	600	17	35
Soap, Cwt. —	234	119	21	13
Tallow, Cwt. —	34	278	9	0

Imports into Ireland from the East Country.

340 EUROPEAN GOODS.

	1765	1766	1775	1776
Bark, Barrels —	254	0	1581	1550
Cables, Cwt. —	122	93	0	0
Wheat, Qrs. —	1328	1040	26	500
Herrings, Barrels	17030	24555	23597	24339
Flax, undr. Cwt.	3048	1952	6207	2966
Gun Powd. Cwt.	409	11	22	25
Hemp, under. Cwt.	17345	8660	11415	9146
Iron, Cwt.	71888	92324	135343	109206
Linseed Oil, Gals.	252	239	46	0
Train Oil, Gals.	9163	11764	18402	10206
Pot Ashes, Cwt.	20864	20936	19962	23991
Tar, Barrels —	2404	1580	1374	1013
Barrels Stav. Hhds.	1060	979	220	1471
Deals, Hds. —	10686	9892	11441	9035
Masts, No. —	68	119	17	6
Plank, value —	1395	724	377	243
Timber, No. —	9770	10347	9029	7912

In general it appears that as the imports from France, Flanders, Holland, and the East Country decreased, the exports to those countries also decreased; yet the general export of those articles which used to go to those countries, did not altogether very materially decline. It is observable, however, that the impolitic export of hides had greatly decreased.

Before the subject of the trade of Ireland with Europe is finished, it may be proper to observe,

observe, that all European goods * (non enumerated) may be brought from any place in any shipping; and the enumerated also from any place in British ships †, or of the country. Under this construction of the law, it has been the constant practice to allow all European goods to be brought here from Ireland in British ships, upon the same terms as if imported direct; except,

First, such as are prohibited to be used in this kingdom, respecting which it is obvious, if the various articles of gloves, stockings, laces, embroideries, silks manufactured, buttons, cambricks, fringes, wires, velvets, mixed stuffs, &c. &c. comprized in our long list of prohibitions, are to be importable from Ireland, but interdicted to

* The 12th Charles II. chap. 18, which requires goods to be brought directly from the *aforeſaid* places of their growth, refers only to Asia, Africa and America. The restraint on European goods is contained in the 8th sect. of that act, directing articles, commonly called enumerated, to be brought only in British ships, or in those of the built of the country. See also 13 and 14 Charles II. chap. 11. And 6th George I. chap. 15.

† It should be always remembered that Irish and Plantation-built ships are deemed British.

other

other nations, the frauds to which the British market would be open, by the introduction of foreign goods, through Ireland, would be insurmountable and infinite. The general expediency of our prohibitions, whether considered with a view to commerce or revenue, is a distinct consideration, and makes no part of the present inquiry.

Secondly, Thrown silk of Italy, Sicily, and Naples, which can only be brought directly from those places respectively by sea, in ships legally navigated.

Thirdly, Drugs (not Irish produce) which pay treble duties if brought from thence.

Fourthly, Wine, which if brought from Ireland, is not entitled to the 12 per cent. for leakage.

Fifthly, Silk crapes or tiffanies pay an higher duty, unless imported directly from Italy.

Total

	£.	s.	d.
Total Irish produce export- ed to foreign countries, on an average of nine years, ending March 25, 1782,	345,118	10	9
Ditto, exported to ditto, in the year ending March 25, 1783, —	584,222	19	3
Total imports from foreign countries, on an average of nine years, ending March 25, 1782, —	605,117	4	0
Ditto, from ditto, in the year ending March 25, 1783, — —	679,289	8	7

S H I P P I N G.

It is impossible to get a satisfactory account of the quantity of shipping belonging to Ireland. The number of ships built there compared with her trade, is trifling. Mr. Dobbs, who, as already mentioned, published an Essay on the trade of Ireland in 1729, mentions the tonnage employed, on an average of seven years ending 1724, to be 181,901. In one of those years it was much higher, viz. in 1722, it amounted to 286,594 tons, belonging to the following nations:

English

English - - - - -	218,299 tons.
Scotch - - - - -	18,355
Irish - - - - -	33,312
Danish - - - - -	11,201
Dutch - - - - -	2,444
French - - - - -	2,868
Spanish - - - - -	115
	<hr/>
	286,594

At present the Portuguese have a considerable share of the carrying trade of Ireland. Such advantages are given at St. Ubes to the ships of that place in point of duties, that they can import salt at half price.

O B S E R V A T I O N S.

The foregoing particulars are sufficient to enable us to decide, that not only the manufactures and produce in general, but that each particular article of consequence, is in an improving and prosperous, state and that the general trade rapidly and greatly increases, notwithstanding the commerce with some European countries, had latterly decreased. Yet it must occur to the intelligent reader, how extremely difficult it is, to make an arrangement between the two countries,

countries. equal, reciprocal, and satisfactory. Ireland never meant perfect equality, nor could she accede to such a proposal; if she did, many advantages must be given up which she now possesses. However specious the proposition might appear, great objections and difficulties arise on her part. And on the part of Britain no change in the commercial system was either necessary or expedient: nor can alterations of the extent proposed take place but to the disadvantage of Great Britain and of the British empire. — But if this were the proper moment to agitate matters of such magnitude, surely it is incumbent on the legislatures of the two kingdoms to include other questions in their discussion. — If all the reserved advantages of Great Britain are now to be given up; if the two countries can be persuaded that there is either justice or policy in such concessions and changes; if no means of future favour or negociation are to be left; there are some unsettled points of essential consequence, which should not now be neglected; nor should it be postponed to the hour of difficulty and distress to arrange and ascertain the relative exertions and political connection of Ireland in time of war.

R E V E N U E.

The table No. X. gives an abstract of the revenue of Ireland, with the expence of management, drawbacks, premiums, &c. for the year ending 25th March, 1784

	£.	s.	d.
The gross amount of the hereditary revenue for that year appears to be	-	659,826	4 8
Expence of management, drawbacks, &c.	-	261,912	16 11
		<hr/>	
Remains neat	- -	397,913	7 9
On an average of ten years, ending 25th March, 1771,			
the gross amount was		638,132	6 9

But as the expence of management, drawbacks, premiums, &c. have increased, the neat produce is less than it was*.

* In the non-importation year, viz. the year ending 25th March, 1780, the gross amount of the hereditary revenue fell to 561,121l. 18s. 7d.

The

	£.	s.	d.
The gross amount of the additional duties for the year ending 25th March, 1784, appears to be - -	382,352	11	11
Deducting drawbacks †, &c.	16160	0	8
	<hr/>		
Remains neat - -	366,192	11	3
The gross amount of the additional duties, on an average of ten years, ending 25th March, 1771, - -	227,882	16	6
Neat produce of the hereditary revenue and additional duties, on an average of ten years, ending 25th March, 1771, - -	711,127	8	7
The expence, management, drawbacks, premiums, &c., on an average of ten years, ending 25th March, 1771, - -	154,887	14	9

† The expence of management of the additional duties is charged on the hereditary revenue.

X x 2

Expence

	£.	s.	d.
Expenditure of ditto, for the year ending 25th March, 1784, exclusive of 8,263l. 10s. 6d. which properly belongs to stamp duties*, -	277,072	17	7½

* The increase is little more than may fairly be explained.

The

The Inland Revenues of Ireland, now payable. 1783.

		Total.			Annual amount about
		l.	s.	d.	£.
	Strong beer and ale, the duty of every 32 gallons				110237
	Hereditary	2	6		
	Additional	1	7 ³ / ₈	0 4 1 ¹ / ₈	
	Small beer every 32 gallons				
	Hereditary	0	6		121000
	Additional	0	3 ⁶ / ₈	0 0 9 ⁶ / ₈	
	Strong waters per gallon				
	Hereditary	0	4		
Applicable to the navigation of Lagan and levied only in Lisburn district.	Additional	0	10	0 1 2	1600
	applicable to the loan				
	On ale the Lagan duty is per gallon	0	0	1	
	Strong waters do.	0	0	4	
	Cider per gallon	0	0	1	175
	Ale licences throughout the kingdom, yearly	1	0	0	8500
	Spirit licences (except Dublin city, Dublin county, and all incorporated towns) not less than	3	0	0	25000
	Spirit licences in Dublin country, and all incorporated towns, not less than	4	0	0	
	Spirit licences on Dublin city, not less than	5	0	0	
	Wine licences, common retailers	2	0	0	
Applicable to tillage.	Do. ——— Tavern keepers by agreement } not exceeding 10 <i>l.</i> or less than 2 <i>l.</i> }				100
	Cider licences throughout the kingdom	0	10	0	
	Carriages 4 wheeled, each person keeping one or more	1	0	0	
	Do. 2 wheeled, do.	0	5	0	
	On carriages additional duty				5287
	4 wheeled, for the first carriage	1	10	0	
	for every other carriage	2	0	0	
	2 wheeled carriages	0	10	0	
Appropriated to charter schools.	Pedlar's licence				1200
	Foot	1	0	0	
	One horse	2	0	0	
	Two horses	3	0	0	

		Total.			Annual amount about
		l.	s.	d.	
Tillage Loan.	Cards-per pack ——— 1st duty	0	0	6	2600
	Do. ——— 2d ———	0	0	6	2600
	Dice the pair ———	0	5	0	145
	Inland wrought plate ——— per ounce	0	0	6	1700
	The King's Rents.				
	Quit Rents. Rents reserved on forfeitures of 1641, viz. per acre in Ulster	0	0	2	} 50840
	Connaught	0	0	1½	
	Munster	0	0	2¼	
	Leinster	0	0	3	
	Crown Rents. Rents reserved on grants of the King's lands in inheritance, six escheated counties, dissolved abbies (in which port corn rents may be consider- ed as part)—Also for fairs, markets, fisheries, ferries, &c. ———				14800
	Composition Rents. A composition made by Queen Elizabeth and the people of Connaught, in lieu of cefs prels and quarterage of soldiers ———				1000
	Forfeited Lands, such part of the forfeitures of 1688, as were not disposed of before 24th June, 1703				754
	Besides forfeited lands there are several lands being part of the forfeitures of 1641, which were undisposed of and not being worth the quit rent.—Afterwards in Queen Anne's time, an act passed to enable the chief governor and council to make leases of those lands at such rents as they could get for them.—The leases of those should be found in the council office, and auditor general's office, from which last office, constats are issued to the collectors to put them in charge.				
	Hearth-money. Granted for ever in Charles the 11d's time, in lieu of courts of wards, each hearth ———	0	2	0	60000
	Stamp duties on vellum, parchment and paper				33000
	Fines and seizures				10000
	Casual revenue payable by the sheriffs into the exchequer ———				900

	Annual amount about
Absentee Tax, four shillings in the pound paid on the profits of all offices and pensions by persons in office, and pensioners who are not resident six months in the kingdom in each year	£.
The Pells and Poundage may also be considered as a part of the revenue, being a deduction of about 3 per cent. on all payments made at the treasury, which is now applied to the public.	12000
Rents of Duncannon Fort Lands, paid into the Treasury,	300
By Lease bearing date the 2d day of October 1723, the following lands in the barony of Gaultier and county of Waterford, or county of the city of Waterford were granted to the Rev. Alexander Alcock for the Term of 69 years from the 1st of October, 1723, at the Rent of 300 <i>l.</i> and 17 <i>l.</i> 18 <i>s.</i> 7 ¹ / ₄ <i>d.</i> the quit rent thereof.	
Knockroe and Passage	159
Crook	275
Newtown	266
Knocknegable	82
Rahins	94
Third part of Tatleg	272
Total acres	1148
By the Act of Settlement 14 and 15 Char. II. chap. 2d, sec. 202, so much of the lands forfeited in the rebellion 1641, as should amount to the clear yearly value of 300 <i>l.</i> were to be set out and reserved to his Majesty that the profits should be applied to the maintenance of Duncannon Fort.	
And by patent 21st May, 21 Char. II. d, the lands above mentioned were granted to trustees for the purposes aforesaid, and new trustees were appointed by an act 10 Wm. III. chap. 15, these trustees made the lease abovementioned.	
By the account of receipts and payments at the Treasury, laid before Parliament every	

Granted to
the people
of Geneva.

	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
every session, it appears that three sums are brought to charge on account of those rents from Lady-day, 1769, to Lady-day, 1771, viz. in two years, ending Lady-day, 1771, — — —		
Another in the two years ending Lady-day, 1773, — — —	1918 8 11 ³ / ₄	
Another in the two years ending Lady-day, 1779, — — —	890 0 0	
	890 0 0	
Disbursements in that period —		3698 8 11
Balance in the Treasury Lady-day, 1781, —		3505 14 9
		192 14 9

Beside there are some lands of inheritance in the crown not granted away, the greatest part of which are the appendage of some forts, and became the temporary emolument of the governors.—And the Phoenix Park, which being part of the priory of John of Jerusalem, fell to the crown, on the suppression of the same by Henry VIII. was afterwards enlarged by several purchases, and made a deer-park by Char. II^d.—In former times the pasturage was set for 105*l*. a year, for the use of the chief governor, but that has been discontinued since the year 1737, in consideration that there was not sufficient to pay the underkeepers and servants their wages.

Wool Licences, may also be considered as a part of the public revenue, they arise from a fee of 4*d*. per stone paid since the time of Charles the second for a licence to export wool, this does not arise from any statute law, but from custom and perpetual acquiescence. By an act of 3 George II. the old duty of 1*s*. 3*d*. on export of wool is taken off, and it is to be exported duty free; but the old custom of 4*d*. per stone for the licence is still paid; since the extinction of that duty the 4*d*. seems retained as a compensation. Some applications have been lately made claiming a discontinuance of that duty, on account of the recent change of trade laws.—How far there be grounds for such application is not decided, but it should seem that the advantage of the Irish manufacture pleads in favour of the continuance of such payment.

NATIONAL ACCOUNT.

General state of the national account of Ireland, for the year ending 25th March, 1784.

	£.	s.	d.
Charge of the civil list,	174,918	4	7 $\frac{1}{4}$
Charge of the military establishment, ordnance, &c. - -	429,686	12	10
Charges pursuant to act of Parliament, and King's letters, exceedings on concordatum, military contingencies and barracks, prize bounties to the linen manufacture, and allowances to the Commissioners of the Public Accounts, -	493,579	4	2
Making together, -	1,098,184	1	7 $\frac{1}{4}$

Y y

Towards

	£.	s.	d.
Towards answering which, must be applied the neat produce of the heredi- tary revenue for the year ending 25th March, 1784, deducting ma- nagement, &c. -	397,913	7	9 $\frac{3}{4}$
Neat produce of the additi- onal duties for the same year deducting for draw- backs, - -	366,192	11	3
Neat produce of the stamp duties deducting ma- nagement, &c. -	26,316	10	7 $\frac{3}{4}$
Poundage and Pells fees,	24,138	8	6
Four shillings in the pound on employments of ab- sentees, - -	16,545	5	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Surplus of the loan fund after paying interest, Sundry balances paid to Vice Treasurer, &c.			

Charge of the civil list, on
an average of ten years,
ending 25th of March,
1771, - - 126,334 7 5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Charge

	£.	s.	d.
Charge of the military establishment on the same average, -	501,563	0	3
Extraordinary charges, including Parliamen- tary grants on the same average, - -	164,762	17	10
Total expence on the same average, - -	792,660	5	5
Total expence on the preceding ten years, viz. ending 25th March, 1761 - -	626,755	3	8

From whence it appears that the expence has increased upwards of 470,000*l.* yearly, since the year 1761, notwithstanding the charge of the military establishment has decreased.

D E B T.

State of the Funded Debt, 25th March, 1784,

	£.	s.	d.
Principal of loan debentures	927,600	0	0
----- Treasury bills	604,025	0	0
----- Bank capital	600,000	0	0
	<hr/>		
	2,131,625	0	0
Y y 2		Interest	

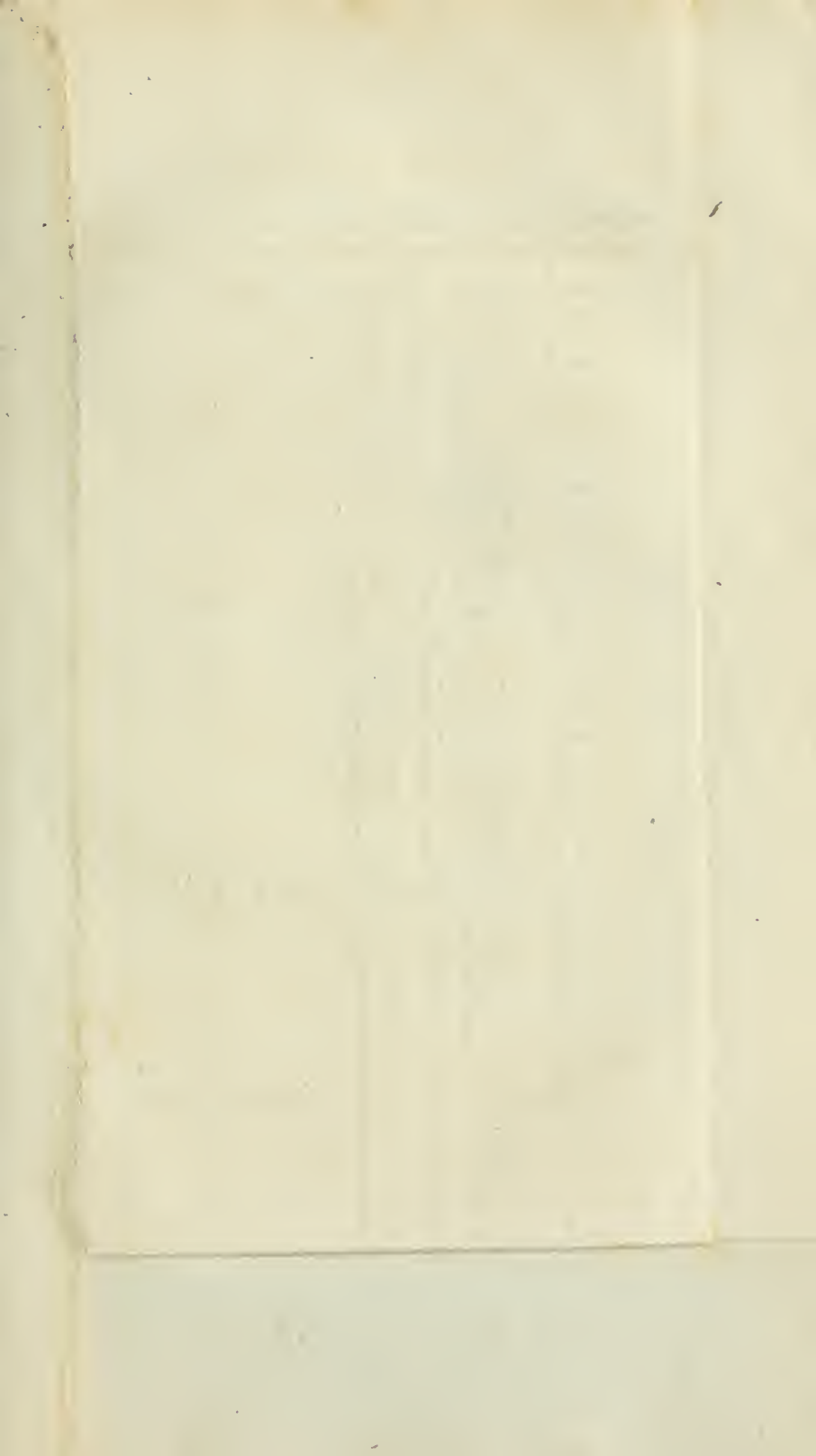
	£.	s.	d.
Interest on the loan debentures, at 4 per cent. -	43,104	0	0
Interest on the Treasury bills, at 4l. 11s. 3d. per cent. -	23,930	0	0
Life annuities - -	49,843	5	0
Bank annuity -	18,000	0	0
	<hr/>		
	134,877	5	0

LOAN DUTIES.

	£.	s.	d.
Spirits, single - -	56,757	12	0
Brandy and geneva, 2d.	32,793	19	8
Rum, 2d. - -	19,276	4	7
Spirit exceeding single proof	14,796	1	9
Spirits, home made * -	59,854	5	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cards, 2d. - -	2,506	4	0
	<hr/>		
	185,984	7	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Deduct drawbacks	765	15	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
	<hr/>		
Neat	185,218	11	7 $\frac{3}{4}$
Total unfunded debt, 25th March, 1784 -	47,583	16	4

* The number of stills in Ireland in 1780 were 1212, gross contents in gallons 295,127. Amount of duties only 104,258 l. 17 s. 6 d.

As



ANCES on the Collector's Accounts at Lady-day. 1782

[illegible]

As long as the debt shall not exceed its present amount, the taxes which it occasions will not be materially felt. The fund which it forms, affords to the people a convenient and safe opportunity of investing their money. There is no intention however of recommending a yearly encrease of debt. Ireland raised money during the war more easily and cheaper than England, and her funds bore a very considerably higher price, and were sometime above par.

O B S E R-

O B S E R V A T I O N S.

THE most successful of our political writers are those who assert roundly that the public interests are irretrievably sunk into distress and misery. There is the greatest disposition in the people to be convinced that such doctrines are just; and they greedily adopt maxims which seem rather formed to prepare us for another world, than to reconcile us to that, in which we are placed. On the other hand, it is an ungrateful, and, in general, an unsuccessful task, to endeavour to undeceive the people of Britain, or of Ireland, to satisfy them that their affairs are in a good way, and that, collectively considered, they have ample cause for contentment, and ample means of happiness. An author, however, who has no pretensions to popularity, who never aimed at it, and never will, might, on the strength of the facts stated in the foregoing pages, and proved by authentic documents, venture to assert, that the manufactures, the trade, the finances, and every thing appertaining to
Ireland,

Ireland, except the minds of her people, are in a good way. He might, perhaps, go still farther, and affirm, that no other country ever possessed so many advantages, and was so happily circumstanced. He must not, indeed, dare to pronounce the people happy, until they may think proper to be so; but thus much he will contend for, that Ireland possesses the *great* and *useful* advantages of the greatest countries; and that she is gradually advancing to the attainment of every advantage acquired and maintained by Britain. Her soil is excellent, her climate favourable to agriculture and manufactures; her people capable of whatever they please to undertake; her situation the best for trade; her ports numerous and good. The principal unreasonable restrictions on her manufactures and trade have all, in great measure, been removed. She has obtained, in a short time, much more than she used to claim, much more than her most sanguine friends expected. The kingdom in general is in the most prosperous state, and has, perhaps, been progressively more so than any country in Europe during the greater part of a century.

century. But such is our miserable nature, that discontent, delusion, and extravagancies seemed to gain ground; they have spread over the land, under circumstances which ought to have produced the most opposite effects; and no longer ago than last summer, if we may give any credit to public prints, Ireland appeared to have neither constitution nor government, nor common sense. Aggregate or other meetings had announced that a total change was necessary, that the Parliaments were bad, that they were dependent, and this shortly after Parliament had asserted the independence of the legislature, and had gained more popular advantages for the country than all the Parliaments of Ireland ever had done.

The people were clamorously declared to be enslaved, at the very time when they were manifestly superior to all control, either of reason or of law. Meetings were held for unlawful purposes, the public papers were filled with treason against the constitution and the established government. The wild and baneful idea of separation from Great Britain was discussed in idle speeches, without exciting either astonishment or indignation.

dignation. Various means were adopted to enflame, and all arts employed to persuade that the manufactures were declining, notwithstanding the most glaring proofs to the contrary.

It is sometimes difficult to account for popular discontents; but, in the instance here described, it is evident that they had no foundation, and that they were fomented by men, who knew they had no chance of notice but in times of anarchy and disorder, and who, in hope of plundering the wreck, enjoy the storm. It is, however, some satisfaction to reflect, that (whatever others may do) the beginners of mischief seldom reap any advantage from it. Ireland had obtained every thing she desired; a most distressing circumstance to her incendiaries. Pains were taken to point out that manufactures and trade were in a ruinous state, and all methods but the right were recommended for assisting them: great pains were taken to make a breach with England; and for want of other food for discontent and innovation, they stumbled, as it happened, on parliamentary reform.

The times immediately subsequent to those in which Parliament had asserted even more than the people had endeavoured to obtain, had carried all their points, and had proved themselves eminently independent, do not, to an ordinary understanding, appear exactly to have been the season peculiarly eligible for destroying the constitution of the House of Commons, or the mode of forming it.

The arguments for and against a reform of Parliament are fresh in every man's memory, and it is needless to repeat them; but it may be observed, that even if it should be admitted as necessary in England, it by no means will follow, that it is necessary in Ireland. The representatives of Ireland are chosen by a much greater proportion of the people who can be qualified to vote, than in England. The change of property in that country, its divided interests, the property and established government being comparatively in the hands of the few, surely are objections to throwing the power into the hands of the multitude. It seems reasonable to suppose, that while the election is in the hands of men of property and consideration, the elected will fulfil the purpose

pose of legislation better than those sent by the multitude, which has neither property nor judgement. How such a change is to produce a set of members less corrupt, does not appear: no qualification as to property is necessary for a seat in the Irish Parliament; boroughs might send bustling attornies and their clerks, or unsuccessful shopkeepers; they would take care to have compensation for trouble and expence; counties, indeed, might send landed men of jovial character *.

It

* One little difficulty would occur from the intended improvement of the constitution; the Lord Lieutenant's Secretary, who is the minister of the country, might, on his arrival, find it difficult or impossible to get into Parliament; especially as there are not the same means of vacating a seat in the Irish as in the English House of Commons; but the difficulty might lead to the putting that office on a more reasonable footing: it might be made permanent, if a proper person could be found constantly to remain there. The salary is surely sufficient, viz. 4,500l. per ann. exclusive of all the fees of the civil and military offices, and of houses both in Dublin and in the country; it is more than belongs to any one office in Great Britain. If it wants dignity, the office of Secretary of State, which most absurdly is at present a sinecure, in Ireland, of about 1500l. per annum, might be joined to it, and the disposition which has been shewn,

It has also been suggested, that frequent elections might be salutary. Without attending

no longer to make judicial offices, sinecures, perhaps, might assist the measure. A permanent Secretary would give an influence and consistence to the commencement of every new viceroyalty, which rarely has been seen in the annals of Irish government. The necessity of making sudden arrangements with men before they are known, would be prevented. There is no necessity for the Secretary to consider himself as obliged to go out of office on every change of Ministers in England. Had this plan been embraced a few years ago, probably such an arrangement might have taken place as would have made new claims or difficulties impossible, and the countries might now have been on the best terms, without a possibility of a disagreement on the present ground. It would keep up something of a permanent administration in Ireland. The usual expence of a provision for the Secretary at the end of the Lord Lieutenant's reign, would be saved by this management, and also 1500*l.* per ann. on the death of the present Secretary of State. According to the present system, the Secretary goes to Ireland, knowing about as much of the country and people as the Lord Lieutenant; is immediately beset by the considerable men of the country, of various characters, objects, and plans, and is obliged to decide before it is possible for him to know the grounds of his decisions. If this resident Secretary should assume too much, the Viceroy would naturally cause his dismissal. Something of this kind of establishment seems particularly proper, as it is not the custom of England to know
much

tending to an uncandid and vulgar prejudice, that the Irish nation is naturally turbulent and disposed to disorder; it may be asked, whether triennial or annual elections might not be inconvenient to a manufacturing and commercial state; the advantage of repeated appeals to the sense of the multitude is not obvious to every understanding.

However respectable the sense of the people may be, yet we cannot be blind to their inconsistencies and delusions. It seems the sense of one country that the most eligible government is that of a mob. It is the sense of another that St. Januarius's blood ought to become liquid on a particular day; of another, that a great orator is instinctive-

much of the internal circumstances of Ireland, nor usual for Ministers to know much more than the people. We are curious and inquisitive relative to the island of Otaheite; are well informed of its manners, customs, politics, parties, manufactures, shipping, &c. and accurately acquainted with the dispositions of Queen Oberea: but we overlook the neighbouring island and the characters of its people.

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ly a complete statesman *. It *was* the sense of the nation last alluded to, to press a bill of exclusion against a prince ; shortly after to load him with the most fulsome and shameful addresses, and three years after to dethrone him. It was the sense of another nation, descended from Englishmen, almost universally to believe in witchcraft, and while that was their sense, to put to death multitudes of the people on that account ; neither character, nor fortune, neither sex, nor the ministry of the gospel, neither the innocence of youth, nor the infirmities of age, afforded the least protection. The excellent governor was *addressed* and *thanked* for the many executions that had been made, and exhorted to proceed in the laudable work. Happily in due time the judges themselves were accused of forcery ; and at length the people, recovering from their infatuation, appointed a fast, prayed to God, and imputed the sense that had appeared, to Satan and his instruments : and this happened at a period of time the most reason-

* In this country no other proof is required of fitness for every office, than oratory ; that talent supplies the place of all knowledge, experience and judgment.

ing and enlightened in the history of man,
viz. 1692.*

Millions of examples equally edifying could be produced; which however might not tend to reconcile a politician to the scheme of recurring to the sense † of the multitude on every occasion; more especially as this recurrence may happen respecting points on which it is impossible for them to form a true judgement, on which they are likely to be enflamed, and to become the instruments of malice or ambition.

It is now necessary to go back to the year 1778, to take notice of a phenomenon which began to appear about that time. The like never has been observed in any country, at least where there was an established government. To describe it strictly, it may be

* See Hutchinson's history of Massachusetts: also the history of the European settlements in America.

† *A celebrated modern courtier* being told that the sense of the people should be taken on a particular occasion, answered, "you may take the sense, and I will take the nonsense of the people, and beat you twenty to one."

called

called an army unauthorized by the laws*, and uncontrolled by the government of the country, but it was generally known, by the name of Volunteers of Ireland. Their institution bore some semblance of a connection with the executive power. Arms belonging to the state, and stored under the care of the lieutenants of counties, were delivered to them, upon the alarm of foreign invasion. So far they seemed to be countenanced by government; but in a short time they caused no little jealousy and uneasiness. The arms issued from the public stores were insufficient to supply the rapid increase of the volunteers: the rest were procured by themselves, and the necessary accoutrements, with a considerable number of field pieces. It answered the purpose of opposition in both countries to speak highly of them, and the supporters of government in both countries mentioned them with civility. The wonderful efforts of England in America were somehow wasted to no purpose of decision. American success enflamed grievances which had been long felt in Ire-

* The same sort of thing as some country and other meetings endeavoured to introduce in England a very few years ago.

land. Ireland, in truth, had infinitely more cause for complaint, and had been infinitely more oppressed, than America ; the latter had never submitted to half the hurtful restrictions in which the other had for many years quietly acquiesced : but now petitions, remonstrances, popular resolves, and parliamentary addresses were vigorously urged, and in about four years Ireland was happily relieved from many commercial restraints, which should have been removed long before, and gained several other points which she thought essential to her welfare. The volunteers preserving a degree of reserve and decency, kept at a certain distance, but were never entirely out of sight. They had been serviceable in supporting the civil magistrate ; Fewer castles, houses, or lands, were kept by forcible possession ; sheriffs were enabled to do their duty ; fewer rapes and other enormities were committed than usual ; and here if the volunteers had stopt, and we had seen no more of them after the establishment of peace, their page in history would have been fair and respectable : but it was natural for them to go on. The many-headed monster now began to think it would be proper

to reform the state, and to purge the Parliament of Ireland. The several corps sent delegates; sometimes they appeared to be the delegates of counties. They formed a parliament of their own; they resolved what they pleased, and of course, that the other parliament was a bad one. So far every thing went on as might be expected; but there is another part of their conduct, which is neither natural nor rational: some of the corps, perhaps for the sake of compleating their numbers, and possibly without consideration, admitted Roman Catholics; others perhaps enrolled them latterly for the sake of acquiring numbers and strength, to force a reform: but that Protestants should allow and encourage this, and also the forming of whole corps of Roman Catholics, when all Europe was at peace, is scarce to be believed, considering the pretensions of the latter, and above all, their numbers. It became the system of the Roman Catholics, to enrol as many as possible, and particularly since the peace, last spring, last summer, and now it is going on, though not quite so rapidly as was expected. There is nothing equivocal in this. They were already half of those that latterly appeared under arms;

in

in a year or less, they might be ten to one, for the Protestants were gradually quitting the service, and the only apology for those who continued since the peace, was, that they meant to prevent the volunteer arms from falling into more dangerous hands, and to counterbalance the Roman Catholics. The latter appeared sure of their plan, and seemed already to exult.

The conduct of the Roman Catholics for a length of time, except those concerned in this business, had been so respectable, that it may seem harsh to mention any thing adverse to them : but, the objection is to their numbers. If they were only one fifth, instead of four fifths, of the people, the writer of these observations would be the last man to suggest difficulties against their being admitted to power, and every right and advantage. But they are men ; they do not forget the situation in which their ancestors have been ; they are not blind to what they might acquire. A perseverance for upwards of two centuries, under every discouragement, and every incitement to a change, under every severity, and subjected to every disadvantage, does not prove an indifference to the

principles of their religion. Thinking as they do, feeling as they do, and believing as they do, they would not be men, if they did not wish a change; nor would the Protestants be worthy the description of reasonable creatures, if they did not take precautions to prevent it.

Left any thing should be deficient to make volunteering objectionable, Roman Catholics were admitted to bear arms; and lest any thing should be wanting to make the plan for improving the representation extravagant and absurd, it was proposed that they should be admitted to vote at elections: a proposal, indeed, so strange, that it might well be imagined to originate with the enemies of reform, for the purpose of blasting the attempt. The right of being elected, would surely follow their being eligible; but at all events the power would be in the electors. It is curious to observe one fifth, or perhaps one sixth, of a nation in possession of the power and property of the country, eager to communicate that power to the remaining four fifths, which would, in effect, entirely transfer it from themselves. It did not proceed from liberality, but from folly. To what else can
be

be imputed the transferring it to so great a majority who have claims, especially at this time, when a peculiar policy has established the system of restoring forfeited estates*? The attainders and forfeitures that followed the transactions of 1641, 1688, 1715, and 1745, depend on the same principles. If power is communicated, it of course will be made use of; it is ridiculous, it is contrary to reason and nature, to suppose otherwise. It is not in man to be content; those that have acquired the means of increasing their gains, or who think they have got nothing, if they do not get more, will not be inattentive to advantages. It is not sufficient to say the property of the Roman Catholics is trifling†, compared

* The author desires to be understood not to object to the measure, but to the mode.

† Although there are several Roman Catholic families of large estates, the number that exceed 1000l. per ann. is small. It has been supposed, however, that they are the monied men; but if we may judge from the late subscription to the Bank stock of Ireland, it does not appear so. Of 600,000l. only 60,000l. it is said, were subscribed by Roman Catholics. This is not mentioned exultingly; it is sincerely wished they had much more. Their money was well employed in trade and agriculture. It is observed, that since the power of purchasing land has been allowed to Roman Catholics,

compared with that of the Protestants, while the disproportion in point of number is so great ; and numbers, where they think they have claims, would soon have property, if attainable either by fair exertions or by force. Neither this observation, nor that the Roman Catholics were arming, is invidiously intended. It is natural they should endeavour to avail themselves of every advantage that may fall in their way.

The Protestants, not the Roman Catholics, are the objects of censure—The Protestants, who, with heedless infatuation, have not only suffered, but promoted those extraordinary and dangerous proceedings, who seemed to have lost all recollection of past apprehensions, and all sense of future danger. If the opportunity offers, why should not the same things be attempted by the Roman Catholics in 1788, which were done in 1688 and 1641 ? If any man doubts, let him look into the proceedings of the Irish Parliament at those periods. It is unpleasant to point out the similitude between

Catholics, few purchases have been made by them ; but they have had scarce time to call in their money, if they had been disposed to lay it out on land.

the

the transactions that preceded the last-mentioned period and those that have happened lately. There is no intention of alluding to the massacre of 1641, nor to suggest a probability that such barbarity can ever be renewed. Though much exaggerated by Protestant writers, the horrors of that event cannot be palliated, however they may have fallen short of the example which had been set on the famous feast of St. Bartholomew, by the *most civilized people* of Europe.

Perhaps we shall be told, that the advantage of the many, not of the few, should be considered; that the majority should govern, &c. The author will not dispute with those sentimental politicians: he thinks it sufficient at present, to reason about things as they are, and will content himself with observing, that the argument or sentiment equally goes to an Agrarian law, or any levelling principle whatever: it establishes confusion, in the place of order.

These remarks, and the dangerous circumstances which suggested them, would have been rendered superfluous, if Ireland had used the moment of returning peace to form her volunteer army into a national militia,

litia, and had re-established the salutary principle, that it is unlawful and unconstitutional for men to array without the authority of Parliament.

Allowing the volunteers all the merit they have deservedly acquired for their readiness to defend their country in war, and imputing whatever may be irregular to the confusion that prevails in time of danger and alarm: their continuance in arms in time of profound peace, will destroy former merit. Their efforts will be imputed to other motives than those that actuated the first volunteers: an intention to change the constitution by a military force, will be imputed to them. If a revolution takes place, it must end, unless England should interfere, in favour of the Roman Catholics, who are at least four to one; even an unsuccessful attempt would be replete with great and obvious mischiefs.

At the same time that a cordial anxiety for the true and permanent interests of Ireland has exhorted these strictures on the system of volunteering, it is a point of justice to acknowledge, that the volunteer officers were in general highly respectable, and distinguished

tinguished both by their public talents and private virtues; and there are still among them, men of the first rank and consequence in the country.

The good order which prevailed in these corps, is not less extraordinary than their rise and progress; but it is to be imputed to the good disposition of the generality of the members, not to the nature of their constitution. It seems miraculous, that no mischief has yet happened. The *mildness* of government, and the good temper of the army, have done their part. None more likely, however, to be misled, than men collected as they have been, conceiving a high opinion of their consequence and strength. They are liable to be perverted, and turned to the worst purposes; in almost every instance of the kind, it has proved so. Well-meaning men who may at one time be at their head, may, at other times, find themselves without authority, and at length be obliged to give way to those, whose business it is to inflame and pervert. The young and active, and those who are not in the habit of thinking, will be led from one deviation to another, till at last they are advanced too far to go back; and
some,

some, otherwise respectable men, who have something to lose and little to gain, will repent of their attempts, to assist themselves at elections by volunteering, or through the medium of an affected good will towards reform. All that is hinted at, may not happen; yet most assuredly, some of the politicians of Ireland are playing with most dangerous two-edged weapons. Such measures do not become them: such are the ladders on which the otherwise insignificant and vicious members of society, or men of desperate situations, mount, and with contempt look down on the miserable tools, through whose folly they were enabled to ascend.

In the mean time it is known, that French money had found its way into Ireland, even as late as last summer, and that American emissaries have been employed, and that France will be ready to play her usual game. Passing over other considerations, it may be observed, that the success of her machinations would be ruinous in an extreme degree both to Protestant and Papist. Supposing France to succeed so far as to produce a rebellion or civil war; such a country as Ireland could not long subsist
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the armies of Britain, of France, of Protestants, and Roman Catholics. In a state of war, that country, so far from being able to support even ten or twenty thousand foreign troops, would not be able to maintain her own people. Agriculture would almost cease, devastation would speedily overspread, and exhaust a tract of land so inconsiderable. One party strong, in the habit of predominating, and supported by a British army, would consume one part of the island; and another party, by far the most numerous, supported by the armies of France and Spain, would consume the rest. In case these should not be enough, Germans, without end, might be introduced: instead of being boundless, like America, and inaccessible only on one side, Ireland is of small extent for two armies, and accessible on every side, and no part of the island far distant from the sea. The war would not be of the generous sort that is usually carried on by Britain and France; it would be a civil war; it would become a religious war, of all, the most barbarous. Ulster might be once more vacated, and the brave Scottish clans would again find a better soil, and again shew their martial talents on the plains of Ireland. After that fine country

had been the scene of war, perhaps not more than two campaigns, it would be left in a worse situation than Cromwell left it, on his last visit ; for it is impossible, considering the state of things, while England in any degree exists as a considerable country, that an island so inferior in number of inhabitants, in riches, and every thing that makes one country stronger than another, that Ireland, so near and liable to blockade and invasion, could, for any time, continue in an independent state separate from England.

Yet such is said to be the view of some ; small it is indeed hoped, and believed, is the number of those who cherish the idea of a separation at the expence of rupture and hostility between the countries : a prospect not more wild than wicked ; wild, from the improbability of success ; wicked, because what are the hopes for Ireland, if so improbable a case could happen as that she, for a time, should be separate from England ? it would entail misery on millions. That poor country, which now might be the happiest in the world, instead of being laid waste once only, would be the constant theatre of war and wretchedness, on every quarrel between Britain and France. But
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in the other case, of being even once the seat of war, when she has lost the flower of her people, half her inhabitants, all her manufactures, commerce, and riches, she must at length fall into her natural situation, deprived indeed of many blessings she now enjoys.

However unpleasant, these are matters highly proper, as well as necessary, to be stated; and he who endeavours to unfold the fatal consequences of measures, the outside of which may appear fair, is the real friend to a country.

Let it be understood, however, that whatever the mass of the people may do, the most considerable, in point of rank and fortune, and the best informed, do not pursue either the extravagancies of volunteering or the visions of reform.

Indeed, many others, who at first acted differently, had begun to see the state of the country in a proper light. After violent fancies, a little recollection sometimes occurs. Men began to be alarmed, and to recover their senses. Aggregate meetings received mortifying checks. The spirit and good sense of the country were roused by the extraordinary

dinary proceedings of those meetings. The arming of the Roman Catholics, although some corps continued to form, and are now forming, experienced certain checks. The government of the country shewed a degree of spirit. Treason was curbed, and, since last August, good order was returning, mischief seemed to subside, volunteering and reform to decline, and many of these observations might now have been unnecessary, if very serious consequences were not to be dreaded from that combination of Mr. Wyville and Mr. Pitt, which has been not long since announced to the public. It is no less than founding the trumpet of disorder in Ireland *.

It is a little particular, that the method of carrying points for that country lately, was

* It has been already remarked, that since last summer, aggregate meetings had been checked in Ireland; attempts to form a congress had been, in great measure, frustrated, and good order began to prevail; but since the minister's letter to Belfast, and the unfortunate communication above mentioned, even those who had declined, and refused to send representatives to an illegal meeting, assembled, and named delegates to the anti-parliament or congress. The business of reform in Ireland will probably be suspended till the minister's measure for the reform of the English House of Commons is known.

through

through the *effect* of volunteers. Reform and Volunteers, may again be the cry. Reform and Volunteers, may lead to any thing. The encouragement is complete. However pure the patriotism of those two gentlemen may be, their plans, at this moment, are infinitely mischievous, in respect to Ireland, at least. The authority communicated to Mr. Wyville, by Mr. Pitt, inflames both countries against the ancient constitution. It was ill timed: the wisdom and policy of it, are not obvious.

The first of those gentlemen, a preacher of the most peaceable and benign doctrines, is the great patron of reform, and was among the first to promote corresponding committees, and associations or volunteering in England. The friends, however, of the country came forward, and alarmed the people, pointing out the mischief that was threatened; nor was the task difficult. Associations and Committees had produced such recent effects in America, and even in Ireland, that the very terms were deservedly become suspicious.

The encouragement which volunteering and reform derive from the Minister having,
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from the first, connected himself with associators and reformers, must necessarily be alarming to the real friends of Ireland, and encouraging to all the wantonness of speculators and the wickedness of incendiaries, in both countries. What volunteering or associations are, must be plain to every understanding; but whether the other thing is, in future, to be called Reformation, Restoration, Revolution, or Rebellion, depends entirely on the good or bad success of the system. And let it be observed, that the best-intended reform is not apt to stop exactly where it meant to stop, or where it should stop.

Not a man is to be met, who considers the *intended* propositions of Reform of the English House of Commons otherwise than as a mockery: not a man is to be found, who believes there is a serious intention of concurring in any thing like the reform * that
is

* However difficult it is to say what the present Parliament may do; to propose a specific plan of reform that can please no set of men, seems as likely means of evading reform, as any that can be offered. An essential reform is not now to be expected; for although
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is meant by the theorists on that subject among the people; and at the same time that the people of England will be disappointed; the passions of the people of Ireland will not be calmed, or their minds composed: and thus these countries are ever to be the sport of delusion and bad policy, and beguiled or diverted from their real interests.

It is not the intention of the writer of these observations, to avail himself of the bad conduct and blunders of Administration, or to exhibit a picture that would bear the strongest colouring. He wishes, especially on such an occasion as the present, to

the Minister owes his existence, as such, to a dissolution, it would not suit him to make the experiment again; and surely the people of England are not quite so simple as to be imposed upon by any little partial appearance of reform, or without a dissolution taking place immediately after reform. The reform will be an acknowledgement that there has been something wrong in the mode of electing; which being corrected, if there remains any pretension to honesty and fairness, of course the people should have the opportunity of choosing their representatives on the improved plan, the former mode being thus reprobated. The people of England have been duped, but will they readily be made to think an addition to Parliament, a reform?

avoid every thing, that can possibly be imputed to party. He is interested for the welfare of the empire : Ministers and parties are, at the best, but secondary considerations, and never would have induced him, in any shape, to become a writer. If an attention to matters, which, perhaps, have been generally neglected, or, perhaps, not generally understood, enables him to give information, and usefully to represent the state of any part of the empire ; that wish alone could tempt him to encounter the prejudices of some, and to expose himself to the interested and malignant observation of others.

He may have prejudices, but they are in favour of order and established government ; and he had rather feel such as tend to support the constitution and tranquillity, consequently the prosperity, of the empire, than those which countenance innovation, and, in the end, distraction ; especially at the time that repose is so necessary both to Great Britain and Ireland, and that they neither require, nor can be benefited by, the kind of changes that are attempted.

It

It is the misfortune of nations, as well as of individuals, not to be content when they are well, but to fancy they may be better. They will subject themselves to every difficulty, and risque every thing that is dear to them, in pursuit of ideal advantages; neither the constitution, nor the manufactures, nor the trade of the country, require the new systems that are afloat; but should it ever be the object of a Minister, to amuse the people with mischievous acquiescences, or by sacrificing the most serious concerns, there is danger indeed. We should be on our guard, examine what we are about, and not decide until we understand.

In respect to the two countries, whenever it is possible, let them consider themselves as one; and far be from these times the narrow and false policy of Davenant *, who recommends the means of diverting the Irish from manufactures, and hindering their population from increase; who supposes England able to supply all foreign demands; and on

* Davenant had access to public papers, and was a party and a favourite writer, as he went with the tide in popular questions; but he was miserably defective in just principles of commerce.

this mistaken notion, concludes, that for every pound of Irish woollens sold, a pound of English must remain at home; and not content with this, he farther supposed the encouragement of the linen manufacture in Ireland would prejudice the trade of England with Hamburgh. The prodigious increase of exports both to Ireland and Hamburgh, since that time, sufficiently confute a writer, who does not seem to have known, that it was necessary Ireland should be rich, or have money or such produce as we might want, before she could take great quantities of British manufactures.

It should be as notorious, as it is true, that every encouragement given to the industry of Ireland, is the advantage of Britain, and that the prosperity of the one, is the prosperity of the other.

The manufactures and trade of Ireland are in a prosperous state; let her not neglect them for vain speculations; let both countries recollect and avail themselves of their many and great advantages: let them not tamper with that which is good, lest they destroy it. The hint given to the Italians
by

by their countryman, may be worthy their attention. He was in a good state of health; he tampered with his constitution to make it better, and finding he had destroyed himself by his quackery, he ordered the following to be inscribed on his tomb—"Stavo bene, ma per star meglio, sto qui."—"I was well, I would be better, and here I lie."

THE END.

To enable the reader to calculate the value of the articles mentioned in the course of the work, the custom-house valuations of Ireland, on export and import, are here annexed.

Medium of the present Market Price on Export.			Denominations.			Medium of the present Mark. Price on Import.		
£.	s.	d.				£.	s.	d.
			Ale	—	The Barrel	1	0	0
			Apparel	—	Value			
0	3	0	Aquavita	—	Gallon			
			Apples	—	Bushel	0	3	0
			Arms	—	Value			
			Bacon	{ English Fitches	No.	0	13	4
1	10	0		{ Foreign	C. q. lb.	2	0	0
0	15	0		{ Hams	C. q. lb.			
				{ Fitches	No.			
			Bark	—	Barrel	0	7	0
			Battery	—	C. q. lb.	7	5	0
1	10	0	Beef	{ Barrels	No.			
4	0	0		{ Carcases	No.			
			Beads of Glass	—	lbs.	0	1	0
0	10	0	Beer	—	Barrel	1	0	0
2	10	0	Books	{ Bound	Value			
				{ Unbound	C. q. lb.	10	0	0
0	10	0	Boards, Barrels	—	C. q. No			
0	5	0	Barrels empty	—	No.			
0	1	6	Bottles of Glass	—	Dozen	0	1	6
0	12	0	Bread	—	C. q. lb.			
			Berries Juniper	—	C. q. lb.	2	0	0
4	4	c	Brass and Copper manufactured	—	Value			
			Brass Shruff	—	C. q. lb.	3	0	0
			Bricks	—	Thousan.	1	10	0
2	0	0	Butter	—	C. q. lb.			
5	0	0	Bullocks and Cows	—	No.			
			Brimstone	—	C. q. lb.	0	16	8
			Bullion	{ Gold	Ounces	0	6	8
				{ Silver	Ounces	0	6	8
			Bugles	—	lb.	0	6	8
			Cables	—	C. q. lb.	1	12	0
			Candlewick	—	C. q. lb.	3	5	0
			Capers	—	lb.	0	0	8
0	6	0	Cards	{ Playing	Doz. Pks.			
				{ Tow	Doz. Pks.	0	4	0
				{ Wool	Doz. Pks.	0	8	0
			Chalk	—	C. q. lb.	0	1	0
			Comblet	{ Mohair	Yard's	0	6	8
				{ Worsted	Yards	0	2	6

Medium of the present Market Price on Export.			Denominations.		Medium of the present Mark. Price on Import.
£.	s.	d.			£. s. d.
1	0	0	Cheefe	—	C. q. lb. 1 10 0
			Chocolate	—	lb. 0 2 6
Value.			Coaches and Chaifes	—	Value
			Coals	—	Tons 0 15 0
			Coffee	—	C. q. lb. 10 0 0
			Copper Plates and Bucks	—	C. q. lb. 5 0 0
1	5	0	Cordage	—	C. q. lb. 1 3 4
			Cork	—	C. q. lb. 3 10 0
			Corn {	Barley and Malt	qrs. 1 2 0
				Beans and Peafe	qrs. 1 5 0
0	9	9		Oats	qrs. 0 15 0
2	4	0		Wheat	qrs. 2 3 4
1	16	8	Candles	—	C. q. lb.
3	10	0	Copper Ore	—	Tons
			Cotton, Linen, and Silk Manufacture	—	Value
1	12	0	Corn {	Barley	qrs.
1	0	0		Beans	qrs.
1	3	0		Malt	qrs.
1	0	0		Peafe	qrs.
0	2	0	Drapery {	New	Yards 0 2 6
6	8	0		Old	Yards 0 14 0
				Prunella	Yards 0 4 0
				Shagg	Yards 0 4 0
			Drugs	—	Value
			Dying Stuffs. {	Allum	C. q. lb. 0 13 0
				Anotto	C. q. lb. 0 18 0
				Argal	C. q. lb. 1 2 0
				Brazillito	C. q. lb. 0 14 0
				Cochineal	lbs. 1 0 0
				Copperas	C. q. lb. 0 6 8
				Fustick	C. q. lb. 0 14 0
				Galls	C. q. lb. 3 0 0
				Indigo	lbs. 0 6 8
				Logwood	C. q. lb. 2 5 0
				Madder	C. q. lb. 1 5 0
				Orchal	C. q. lb. 1 2 0
				Redwood	C. q. lb. 2 0 0
				Sanders	C. q. lb. 6 0 0
				Shumack	C. q. lb. 0 13 4
				Smalts	lbs. 0 1 0
				Stone Blue	lbs. 0 0 7
				Sweet Wood	C. q. lb.
				Weeds, or Straw Weed	C. q. lb. 0 7 0
				Wood	C. q. lb. 0 15 0
				Small Parcels	Value
			Earthen Ware	—	Value
			Elephant's Teeth	—	No. 0 5 0
			Fans	—	No. 0 1 8

Medium of the pre- sent Market Price on Export.			Denominations.			Medium of the present Mark. Price on Import.		
£.	s.	d.				£.	s.	d.
2	0	0	Fish	Anchovies	The Barrel	0	16	0
1	5	0		Cod	C. q. lb.	4	0	0
				Cod	Barrel	1	0	0
0	15	0		Herrings	Barrel	1	0	0
3	0	0		Ling	C. q. lb.	4	10	0
				Oysters	Gallon	0	2	0
				Pilchards	Hhd.			
12	0	0		Salmon	T. qr.	12	0	0
				Stock				
				Sturgeon	Keg	0	12	0
1	2	0		Eels	Barrel			
1	10	0		Hake	C. q. lb.			
2	0	0		Feathers	C. q. lb.			
			Flax	Drest	C. q. lb.	2	0	0
				Undrest	C. q. lb.	1	15	0
				Flints	M.	0	2	6
				Furs	Value			
				Fustian Ends	End	0	15	0
0	0	10		Flannel	Yard			
1	10	0		Flax Seed	Hhd.			
0	1	0		Fustians	Yard			
0	1	8		Frize	Yard			
per Hd.	0	1	Glasf	Cases	No.	1	10	0
				Drinking	No.	0	0	2
				Rhenish	Webb			
				Vials	No. Hhd.	0	6	8
				Glasf Ware	Value			
1	13	4		Glew	C. q. lb.	0	16	8
0	1	6		Gloves	Pair	0	3	0
				Grindstones	Chald.	0	16	8
			Groceries	Almonds	C. q. lb.	2	15	0
				Anniseeds	C. q. lb.	1	6	8
				Cinnamon	Lbs.	0	8	0
				Cloves	Lbs.	0	10	0
				Cocoa Nuts	Lbs.	0	1	0
				Currants	C. q. lb.	2	5	0
				Figs	C. q. lb.	0	12	6
				Ginger	C. q. lb.	1	10	0
				Hulled Barley	C. q. lb.	1	2	0
				Liquorice	C. q. lb.	1	2	0
				Mace	Lbs.	0	16	8
				Nutmegs	Lbs.	0	10	0
				Pepper	Lbs.	0	1	4
				Piaminto	Lbs.	0	1	0
				Prunes	C. q. lb.	0	6	8
				Raisins	C. q. lb.	1	4	0
				Rice	C. q. lb.	0	18	0
				Saffron	Lbs.	1	10	0

Medium of the pre- sent Market Price on Export.			Denominations.			Medium of the present Mark. Price on Import.					
£.	s.	d.				£.	s.	d.			
4	12	0	Groceries	Succards	—	The Lbs.	0	3	0		
				Succus Liquoritiæ	—	Lbs.	0	0	8		
				Sugars	Candy	—	C. q. lb.	4	0	0	
					Loaf	—	C. q. lb.	6	0	0	
					Muscovado	—	C. q. lb.	2	5	0	
					White	—	C. q. lb.	4	0	0	
				Small Parcels	—	Value					
				Gunpowder	—	C. q. lb.	3	5	0		
			Haberdashery.		Gold and Silver	{	Fringe	Oz.	0	10	0
							Twilt	Oz.	0	4	6
Inkle	{	Wrought			Lbs.	0	5	2			
		Unwro't			Lbs.	0	3	0			
Laces	—	Gro. Doz.			0	3	6				
Needles	—	Doz. Th.			3	2	6				
Pins	—	Doz. M.			0	18	0				
Thimbles	—	No. M.			2	0	0				
Thread.	{	Bridges			Lbs.						
		Black			Lbs.						
		Gold and Silver			Lbs. oz.	2	0	0			
		Outnal			Lbs.	0	5	6			
		Piecing			Lbs.						
		Sifters			Lbs.	0	15	0			
	White brown	Lbs.			0	2	8				
	Small Parcels	Value									
Hair	{	Camels'	—	Lbs.	0	8	0				
		Goats'	—	Lbs.	0	2	6				
		Human	—	Lbs.	0	1	10				
0	5	0	Hats	—	No.	0	15	0			
Hemp	{	Drest	—	C. q. lb.	1	0	0				
		Undrest	—	C. q. lb.	0	15	6				
		Hemp Seed	—	Hhd.	2	10	0				
6	0	0	Hops	—	C. q. lb.	5	0	0			
		Horses	—	No.	10	0	0				
		Hardware	—	Value							
1	0	0	Hogs	—	No.						
1	10	0	Hogs' Lard	—	C. q. lb.						
0	16	8	Horns	{	Ox and Cows	C. q. lb.					
0	6	8			Tips	C. q. lb.					
1	13	4			No.						
2	16	0	Hides	{	Tanned	C. q. lb.					
1	6	8			Untanned	No.					
			Indian Silk Stuffs	—	Value						
per ton.	16	15	0	Ironmongers' Ware.	Iron	—	C. q. lb.	0	16	0	
					Knives	—	No.	0	0	3	
					Merimits	—	No.	0	2	0	
					Pots	—	No.	0	5	0	
					Razors	—	No.	0	0	6	
					Sciffars	—	Gro. Doz.	1	5	0	
					Scythes	—	Doz.	1	0	0	

Medium of the present Market Price. on Export.			Denominations.		Medium of the current Mark. Price on Import.			
£.	s.	d.				£.	s.	d.
			Ironmongers' Ware.	{ Small Parcels Iron, wrought	Value C. q. lb.			
2	0	0	Value	Ironmongers' Ware				
				Iron Ore	Tons	0	15	0
				Ivory, wrought	Lbs.	0	12	0
1	10	0		Kelp	Tons			
				Lace { Gold and Silver	Lbs. Oz.	4	0	0
				Thread Bone	Yards	1	0	0
				Lamp Black	Lbs.	0	1	2
				Latten	C. q. lb.	6	0	0
				Lead { Pigs	C. q. lb.	0	10	6
				Red	C. q. lb.	1	5	0
				Sheets	C. q. lb.	0	13	4
				Shot	C. q. lb.	0	15	0
Tons	2	6	8	White	C. q. lb.	1	6	8
				Lead Ore	C. q. lb.	4	0	0
				Lime, Lemon, and Orange Juices	Gallons	0	2	0
				{ British	Yards	0	3	0
				Buckram	Yards	0	4	0
				Callico { Stained	Yards	0	5	0
0	5	0		White	Yards	0	4	0
				Cambrick	Yards	0	6	8
0	1	7		Canvass	Yards	0	1	2
				Coloured	Yards	0	4	0
				Cravats	Yards			
				Damask { Napkins	Yards	0	5	0
				Tabling	Yards	0	6	0
			Linen { Diaper { Napkins	Yards	0	3	0	
				Tabling	Yards	0	3	0
				French	Ells	0	2	0
				Hamburgh	Ells	0	3	0
				{ Bag	Ells	0	4	0
				Gallick	Ells	0	5	0
				Kenting	Yards	0	2	0
				Lawns	Yards	0	3	0
				Muslin	Yards	0	3	6
0	1	4		Ticking	Yards	0	2	4
				Plain	Yards			
				Linfeed	Hhd.	3	0	0
				Linen, Cotton, and Silk, Brit. Manuf.	Value			
				Masks	No.			
0	15	0		Matts	No.	0	1	4
0	10	6		{ Flour	C. q. lb.	0	12	0
				Oat	Barrel	0	7	0
1	0	0		Wheat	Barrel	1	6	8
				Groats	Barrel			
				Millinery Ware	Value			
				Mill Stones	No.	1	5	0
0	15	0		Molasses	C. q. lb.			

Medium of the present Market Price on Export.				Denominations.	Medium of the current Mark. Price on Import.
£.	s.	d.			£. s. d.
				Oakum	C. q. lb. 0 12 6
				Olives	Gallon 0 2 2
				Onions	Barrel 0 10 0
				Oranges and Lemons	C. q. lb. 0 2 6
				Linseed	Hhd. 0 2 0
				Oils { Sevil	Gall. 0 3 4
				{ Sweet	Gall. 0 5 0
				{ Train	Gall. 0 0 6
Ton	12	0	0		
	0	6	8		
	0	16	8		
				Ox { Bones	M.
				{ Guts	Barrel
				Painting Stuffs	Value
				{ Blue	Ream 0 4 0
				{ Brown	Bundle 0 3 0
Reams	0	1	6	{ Cap	Ream 0 4 4
				{ Card	Ream 0 5 0
				{ Painted	Ream 0 6 8
				{ Printing	Ream 0 2 4
				{ Pressing Leaves	Hund. 0 8 0
				{ Whited brown	Ream 0 1 6
	0	3	0	{ Writing	Ream 0 6 8
				Paste Boards	No. 0 8 0
				Pewter	C. q. lb. 4 5 0
				Pictures	Value
				Pitch	Barrel 0 10 0
				Plates of Tin	Barrel 2 2 0
				Pot Ashes	C. q. lb. 1 5 0
				Printing-letters	C. q. lb. 4 5 0
	0	0	9	Plank, three Inch	Feet
	1	10	0	Pork	Barrel
	4	0	0	Pewter wrought	C. q. lb.
				Quills	M. 0 1 8
				Quilts	No. 2 0 0
				Rape of Grape	T. hh. g.
	5	0	0	Ribband { Silk	Lbs. oz. 2 0 0
				{ silver	Lbs. oz. 0 10 0
				Rozin	C. q. lb. 0 10 0
	0	5	0	Rabbits' Fur	Lb.
	1	12	6	Rape Seed	Qr. Bush.
				Value	Value
				Sadlers' Ware	Bush. 0 1 6
				{ Foreign	Ton 0 10 6
	0	1	3	Salt { Rock	Bush. 0 1 4
				{ White	C. q. lb. 2 10 0
				Salt-Petre	C. q. lb. 0 18 0
				Seeds { Clover	Lb. 8 2 4
				{ Garden	Lb. oz. 3 0 0
	5	0	0	{ Manufacture	Lb. oz. 1 15 0
	2	10	0	Silk { Thrown { Dyed	Lb. oz. 1 5 0
				{ Undyed	Lb. oz. 1 0 0
				Raw	

Medium of the pre- sent Market Price on Export.			Denominations.			Medium of the present Mark. Price on Import.		
£.	s.	d.				£.	s.	d.
6	0	0	Buck	—	No.	0	2	6
			Goat	—	C. q. lb.	8	0	0
			Losh	—	No.	0	10	0
			Seal	—	No.	0	1	6
			Sheep	—	C. q. lb.	2	2	0
			Turkey	—	No.	0	6	8
2	16	0	Skins { Calf	—	C. q. lb.			
1	2	6			Doz. No			
0	1	2	Fox	—	No.			
3	2	6	Kid	—	C. q. lb.			
2	5	0	Lamb	—	C. q. lb.			
1	5	6	Rabbit	—	C. q. lb.			
0	5	2	Otter	—	No.			
			Slates	—	M.	0	6	8
			Snuff	—	Lb.	0	2	6
1	13	4	Sope	—	C. q. lb.	1	5	0
			Sope Ashes	—	C. q. lb.	0	16	8
			Spirits {	Brandy	Gall.	0	2	0
				Geneva	Gall.	0	2	0
				Rum	Gall.	0	1	6
1	6	8	Starch	—	C. q. lb.	0	16	8
Value			Stationary Ware	—	Value			
			Steel	—	C. q. lb.	1	5	0
			Stockings {	Cotton	Pairs	0	2	8
				Silk	Do.	0	15	0
				Silk and Cotton	Do.	0	7	6
				Silk and Worsted	Do.	0	7	0
doz. prs.	1	5		Thread	Do.	0	2	6
do.	1	4		Woollen	Do.	0	3	0
do.	2	0		Worsted	Do.	0	5	0
			Sword Blades	—	No.	0	2	0
6	0	0	Cyder	—	T. H. G.	5	0	0
			Sword-cutlers' Ware	—	Value			
0	5	0	Shoes	—	Lb.			
2	0	0	Silk and Worsted mixed Manuf.	—	Lb. Oz.			
Value			Sadlers' Ware	—				
			Tar	—	Barr.	0	12	0
			Tea {	Bohea	lb.	0	2	0
				Green	lb.	0	6	0
			Tobacco	—	Lb.	0	0	6
			Tow	—	C. q. lb.	1	5	0
			Twine	—	C. q. lb.	3	0	0
			Toys	—	Value			
			Tiles	—	M.	1	10	0
			Tin	—	C. q. lb.	3	10	0
2	0	0	Tallow	—	C. q. lb.			
0	12	0	Tongues	—	Doz.			
			Velvet	—	Lb. Oz.	3	0	0
			Vinegar	—	T. H. G.	7	15	0

Medium of the present Market Price on Export.		Denominations.		Medium of the present Mark. Price on Import.	
£.	s. d.			£.	s. d.
	Value	Upholstery Ware	—	The Value	
		Walnuts and others	—	Barr.	0 10 6
		Wax { Bees'	—	Lb.	0 1 0
		Wax { Candles	—	C. q. lb.	8 10 0
4	0 0	Wax { Wax	—	C. q. lb.	
		Whalebone	—	C. q. lb.	13 0 0
		Wine { French	—	T. H. G.	25 0 0
		Wine { Port	—	Do.	24 0 0
		Wine { Rhenish	—	Do.	24 0 0
		Wine { Spanish	—	Do.	30 0 0
	Value	Wooden Ware	—	Value	
		Balk	—	C. q. lb.	20 0 0
		Barrel Staves	—	C. q. lb.	0 5 0
		Canes	—	No. M.	5 0 0
		Casks empty	—	No.	0 2 6
		Clap Boards	—	C. q. No.	6 5 0
		Clap Holt	—	C. q. No.	6 5 0
		Deals	—	C. q. No.	4 5 0
		Wood { Hoops	—	M.	2 0 0
		Wood { Masts	—	No.	2 5 0
		Wood { Oars	—	C. q. No.	4 5 0
		Wood { Plank	—	Value	
		Wood { Spars	—	C. q. No.	3 5 0
		Wood { Timber	—	T. Feet	2 15 0
		Wood { Wainscot	—	C. q. No.	20 0 0
		Wool { Beaver	—	Lb.	0 18 0
		Wool { Cotton	—	C. q. lb.	4 0 0
		Wool { Ellridge	—	C. q. lb.	4 10 0
		Wool { Spanish	—	C. q. lb.	4 10 0
0	10 0	Wool { Wool	—	St. lb.	
		Wire { Brafs	—	C. q. lb.	6 0 0
		Wire { Iron	—	C. q. lb.	2 5 0
		Wire { Latten	—	C. q. lb.	4 0 0
		Wire { Steel	—	C. q. lb.	7 5 0
		Wire { Cable	—	C. q. lb.	1 12 0
0	1 0	Yarn { Cotton	—	Lb.	0 1 6
		Yarn { Grogam	—	Lb.	0 2 0
Cwt.	6 0 0	Yarn { Linen	—	Lb.	0 2 0
		Yarn { Mohair	—	Lb.	0 3 0
		Yarn { Sail	—	Lb.	0 0 6
1	10 0	Yarn { Worsted	—	Lb.	0 4 0
0	12 0	Yarn { Woollen	—	St. Lb.	
	Value	Small Parcels	—	Value	

